THE

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 7.] FEBRUARY 28, 1809. [Vol. 2.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SINCE a knowledge of the method of ascertaining the Specific Gravity of bodies, is attended with so many and great advantages to the chymist, merchant, agriculturist and miner, I trust any attempts which may tend to simplify that process, and render it more generally known, will not be unacceptable to many of your readers.

Specific Gravity expresses the weight of any particular kind of matter, as compared with that of the same bulk of some other body of which the weight is supposed to be already known; pure or distilled water being easily procured, its temperature regulated with facility, and being then a fluid of uniform density, seems the least exceptionable for a standard of comparison, and is therefore generally used for that purpose; but as its weight varies with its temperature, that is usually taken at 60 degrees of Farenheit's thermometer.

To compare the bulk of fluids and observe the difference in their weight, is comparatively easy and simple; a small bottle may be filled with the fluid we wish to examine, and its weight compared with that of the same bulk of water. Thus, if a small flask hold 1000 grains of pure water, it will contain 1850 of oil of vitriol (sulphuric acid) and only 815 of spirit of wine (alcohol.)

But to compare the weight of an irregular solid, with that of its bulk of a standard fluid, is a more difficult problem, and was considered impossible, previous to the discovery of the illustrious, but unfortunate Archimedes, who ascertained on the principles of hydrostatics, that a lighter, and less valuable metal had been substituted for part of the gold in King Hiero's crown; a discovery to which he was led, by observing the ascent of the water on the sides of the bath, when he immersed himself in it.

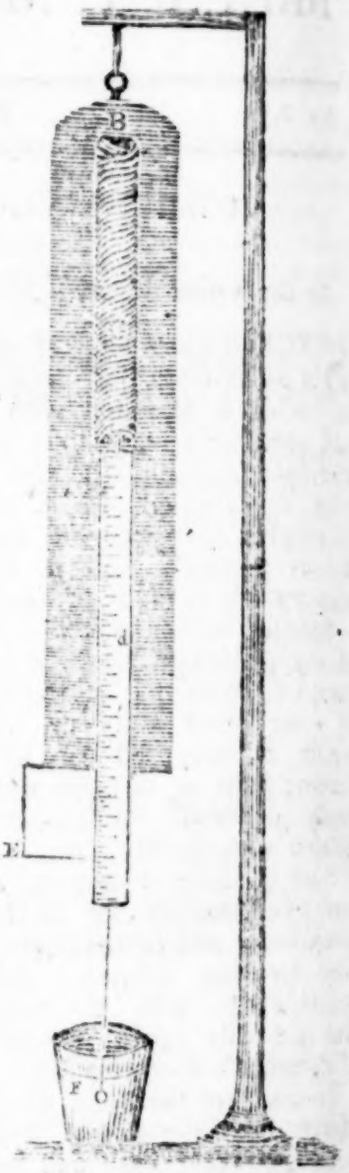
When a solid is immersed in a fluid, it is plain, that the former displaces its own bulk of the latter; now the weight of the portion of fluid displaced, may be known by observing the loss of weight, sustained by the solid on immersion, and this gives also a very easy method of taking the specific gravity of liquids; thus, if a body weigh 50 grains in air, and only 40 in water, the bulk of that body of water, weighs 10 grains (the difference) which 10 grains if made a divisor, and the 50 grains or weight in air a dividend, the quotient 5 will be the specific gravity of that body; or in other words a cubic inch (or any given measure) of the solid, compared in weight, with the fluid, stands in the proportion of 5 to 1. The relative weight of grain, sand, ore, powders, or soil of any kind, may be also ascertained in the following easy manner; take a small phial capable of holding a known quantity of water, and introduce into it, equal parts of sand (for example) and water; this may be done by pouring water into the vessel, till it be half full, and then adding as much sand, as will make the water rise in the bottle so as to fill it, the difference between the weight of the water and sand, will give the result; thus if the phial contains 100 grains of pure water, and gains 50 grains by having the half of that water displaced, by an equal bulk of sand, it is evident, that the weight of the sand will be to that of water, as 2 to 1. Salts may be weighed in the same manner, in some fluid, in which they are not soluble, such as oil of turpentine, or naphtha.

If therefore there be a variety of substances, the respective value of which are in any ratio, whether inverse, or direct, connected with their weight,

by this simple procedure, we discover their comparative goodness. The purity of various medicines, may be in this manner determined, so that this rule is evidently of infinite use in pharmacy; yet where is the Pharmacopolist, who understands, or uses an hydrostatic balance? The value of barilla, kelp, pot, and pearl ashes, (so closely connected with our staple manufactures) may be readily found in this way, as well as the value of oil of vitriol, which is at present prepared by the rules of commerce, of a particular standard strength; so that if a person purchase it below the standard specific gravity, he may return it to the manufacturer, or deduct a sum from its price, equivalent to its want of weight.

In agriculture there can be no doubt of the universal and important application of this rule, not only in ascertaining the comparative value of different samples of the same kinds of grain, roots, &c. but also that of lime, marle, and some other manures; thus if pure lime be of greater value, than any admixture of that earth with clay, sand, iron, &c. the nearer the stone which we use approaches to the specific gravity of pure carbonate of lime (chalk, marble, or good lime-stone) the greater will be the price, at which the farmer can afford to purchase it. No doubt the fertility and composition of different soils, could also be investigated in this way, but this view of the subject has not yet I believe been proposed or practised; at least, not in this country.

In mining and mineralogy the rule being universally admitted, and applied, I think I need not exemplify its use; suffice it to say, that in the British Mineralogy, now publishing with so much credit, and expense, by Sowerby, the generic characters of all the fossils, are traced to their specific gravities: to this extraordinary work I may refer the reader for the best account of the specific gravity of British minerals; even the comparative value of different species of coal, may, I conceive, be readily ascertained by finding their specific gravity, which if simplified according to the following method, may be easily applied by any careful domestic.



The method of weighing the body to be examined, has I think been hitherto rather objectionable, for from the length of time necessary in adjusting the weights, or the balance, the result of the process, will be often inaccurate, when the body immersed in the water imbibes that fluid, or is partially soluble or diffusible in it; a consideration of this, and of the difficulty, expense and loss of time attending a method so tedious, and operose, induced me to form the instrument represented in the plate, contrived like the pocket-steel-yard (or ouncel) on the principle of the spring, but that so delicate, as to be sensible to the weight of one fourth

of a grain. It is used in the following manner. The body to be weighed, is suspended by a fine gold wire or common hair, to the graduated slide, d, attached to the spiral wire or spring C. The slide is immediately drawn down, so as to show the number of grains opposite the point of the index E. This being the weight under the pressure of the atmosphere is noted, the body O, still suspended at the slide is then plunged into a proper vessel F, filled with the standard fluid, part of the weight being thus taken off, the spring retracts and shows in an instant the loss of weight.

For taking the specific gravity of fluids this instrument is also very convenient; a piece of glass, of known weight, suspended at the spring, and immersed in the liquor, shows instantly the proportion of weight, one fluid bears to another. Now as the strength of spirits, and various commodities increases inversely as their weight, I would beg leave to recommend this mode of examining them, to the attention of the spirit-merchant, and the public in general; not from any desire of ostentation, but from the conviction of proposing a simple, cheap, and speedy method which any one may easily understand, and improve. This instrument so plainly adapted to all those purposes, may be constructed for a few shillings; the principal point is to use a spiral wire, or spring, of a determinate kind, the diameter, weight, and elasticity of which shall be uniform.

J. MURRAY, Surgeon.

Arch-street, Jan. 26, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON ORIGINALITY OF THINKING, AND THE FASHIONABLE CHANGES OF PUBLIC OPINION.

If fashion confined its influence to the cut of a coat, the size of a hat, or the variations of female dress, it might often be preposterous without producing much injury; but when it attempts to control opinions, and form them to one model, in such instances, its "ideot sway" should be resisted. Originality of thinking, or independence of judgment is a rare qualification: so rare indeed, that some have attempted to libel human nature, by asserting that the multitude are incapable of forming deliberate opinions, and only fitted to follow in the train of a few, who are privileged to think for them. The people have brought this opprobrium on themselves, because by not exerting this privilege of forming a deliberate judgment they appear to superficial observers, who argue from the disuse against the existence of this faculty, as if they did not actually possess the power, or the right of private judgment. They too implicitly follow a few leaders of public opinion, and receive the *tone* from them, while if the capability of such directors who take the lead were critically examined, their qualifications might justly be called in question. At the era of the reformation, Lutheranism was fashionable in one place and Calvinism in another, while the old fashion continued to prevail in other places, and thus the perception of truth might be supposed to be influenced by geographical circles. We cannot suppose if the people had individually examined for themselves, that opinions would be so generally embraced, as if they were nationally decided on. The influence of sects over their respective adherents may also be adduced to prove the force of fashion over opinion. Most remain in the profession in which they were educated, without confirming their assent by future examination, or expressing their dissent by separating from what their matured opinions may lead them to think erroneous. The exercise of private judgment too often lies dormant.

I am not an old man, and yet I have known many fluctuations of public opinion. My first acquaintance with public life commenced during the American war. I well remember the agitated politics of those days, and the two rival modes of thinking then in vogue. In Ireland this was the grand era of volunteer associations. The accents of patriotism were then fashionable, but that these sentiments were in compliance with the mode, and not in the million, the result of

conviction appears evident from the changes which took place in many soon afterwards, which changes were in all probability not more founded on conviction. Some of the patriots of those days were hurried on to overstep the bounds of rational and moderate reform, and were overwhelmed in the vortex of a fashion of one kind, which proved alike destructive to them and to their schemes. An antagonist fashion arose, in which many of these *ci-devant* reformers joined, and deserted their former fashion with great indifference, proving that

"Changing a master's like changing a glove;"

and this counter current, or re-action of public opinion is now the prevailing mode, and we find many, who, while followers of the former fashion were loud brawlers in favour of liberty, have now become the suppliant tools of any, and every administration, who happen from whatever accidental causes to have power for the time being in their hands. Could these changes have happened so very speedily, or could conversion have been so instantaneously affected, if the opinions of these men, as well their former as their present ones, both in direct opposition to each other, had been the result of deliberate inquiry?

A few have preserved "the noiseless tenor of their way," neither giving up the cause of reform, because excesses have been committed under its name, nor attempting to enforce measures right in themselves by the improper use of force, or to coerce others to adopt their measures; but who seek to promote "virtuous ends only by virtuous means." These are, however, an unfashionable sect, and despised by the leaders of the present fashions, who, when they condescend to speak of them represent them as incendiaries and promoters of discord, though on a just appreciation of their views, those moderate reformers are the best friends to tranquillity, because they wish to promote amelioration and consequent content, and are restrained from using force, as their leading principle is, that all force operates against reform, by producing a re-action which counteracts it. Persuasion and attempts gradually to enlighten are the only weapons such reformers can use, consistently with their own principles.

The periodical prints have a very great influence in leading public opinion. They often artfully contrive to inflame prejudices, by stating what they think will be agreeable to their readers, and thus increase the sale of their papers; and avoid the publication of blunt unpleasant truths, lest their pecuniary interests should suffer. Many readers take upon trust what they thus are accustomed to see daily; and insensibly form their taste accordingly. By acting in this manner they save themselves from "the unsupportable fatigue of thought," and implicitly receive the manufactured sentiments, which they find ready made up to their hand. This is one powerful instrument of leading the public taste, and we find the sentiments of a majority of readers are influenced by the tone of the periodical prints, which they are in the habit of reading:

"Gutta cavat lapidem, non vi, sed sæpe cadendo;"

It is the frequent reiteration of the drop, not the force, which at length wears the stone.

The prevailing fashion of the present day is to promote the war system, and if we may judge of the future from the past, the consequences of this direction of public opinion is likely to prove ruinous to our best interests. Many are interested in the continuance of war by the emoluments which they or their relatives draw from it. Contractors, fathers and brothers of military and naval officers abound every where, these naturally wish for the continuance of the sources whence they draw their profit, and *self-denial* is so unfashionable an accomplishment that few are found to prefer public advantage to private gain. These numerous classes are sufficient to give a direction to public opinion especially when the bulk of the people will not be at the pains to scrutinize the dictates of fashionable opinion. Hence arises the notion that this war differs from all former wars, and that such is the ambition and despotism of Bona-

parte, that no solid peace can be made with him; so that the reprobaters of other wars affect to consider the warfare in which these countries are now engaged as of a peculiar and distinct nature. The present bishop of London (Porteus) some years ago stigmatized war in the following just and appropriate terms:

....."One murder made a villain;
Millions a hero. Princes were privileg'd
To kill, and numbers sanctified the crime.
Ah! why will kings forget that they are men?
And men that they are brethren? Why delight
In human sacrifice? Why burst the ties
Of nature that should knit their souls together
In one soft bond of amity and love?
Yet still they breathe destruction, still go on,
Inhumanly ingenious, to find out
New pains for life, new terrors for the grave?
Artificers of death!"

Yet this same bishop in a change of times, when the Earl of Stanhope quoted these expressions in a debate in the house of Lords, and asked if these were still the bishop's sentiments, repliedin a low voice, "they were not written to mark the present war;" alas!

"*Manners* with honours, humours change with climes,
Tenets with books, and *principles* with times."

But it certainly requires much deliberation and hesitation before we admit it as an axiom, that this war differs from all others in principle, and in the impracticability of making peace. Let the advocates for war receive as much credit as they can ask for the ambition of Bonaparte. Let them uncontradicted call him despot, or whatever other hard name they please. He certainly is a conqueror, and doubtless has many of the vices of that character; but what has opposition effected but an increase of his power? Every successive year of the long protracted contest against France, as a republic, an oligarchy and a monarchy, has proved the melancholy truth that her power has been annually strengthened and consolidated. What immense profusion of blood and treasure has it cost this empire to contend thus unequally with France? Can we rationally expect that the next fifteen years will be more propitious than the fifteen years which are gone by? The desperate gamester doubles his stake every time, and after losing his last shilling, often madly continues the desperate game.

Spanish Patriotism, and Spanish Patriots were of late very fashionable phrases. Probably in the succeeding vocabulary of fashion, these expressions may not so frequently be found; it is the nature of fashion often to praise its objects though they may not possess merit, and afterwards to decry the very same things with equal levity of judgment.

The infatuated war-whoop is often increased by the mercantile speculator. The current of affairs have hitherto been in favour of speculation, because the progress of the war has favoured the importing merchant, by enhancing the prices of the articles of importation; but the manufacturer has suffered in many cases very severely; the rich farmer has also generally succeeded well, but the middling and poorer classes, especially those who cannot bring large capitals to their aid have suffered exceedingly. The rich merchant who has made his thousands and his tens of thousands by his speculations, says "all is well," and because his coffers swell, adds, "the country is happy, and increasing in wealth;" but what say the less successful candidates for wealth, the smaller traders, who constitute in every state the bulk of the people! They must pay the taxes occasioned by the war, and in the language of that kind hearted benevolent, and deeply regretted state-man, Charles James Fox, whose political situation was some times at variance with his better judgment, when the minister triumphed over the man, "they must be contented from the pressure of times, to go from the second to the third story, or even to the garret." It is justly feared, that the weight of taxes and bad trade, *the legitimate effects of war*, have forced many from the garret down to the cellar. Ask if the present ruinous system of commercial warfare has not forced many of the manufacturers of England, the victims of her

overgrown and morbid commerce; into this situation? and at the expiration of a *few short months*, if the Orders in Council cause the continuance of the American Embargo, and we do not receive ample supplies of flax-seed for next spring's sowing, let us inquire if our linen weavers and spinners will not be similarly distressed. The welfare of the staple trade of the north of Ireland is endangered by the commercial war in which we are engaged.

I shall give a few excellent lines, descriptive of our present state, from an anonymous imitation of the 8th Satire of Juvenal, published a few years ago, with which I lately met much to my satisfaction. They justly mark the present tendency to elevate the higher ranks, and depress still more the lower and middling classes of society.

" There meet the extremes of rank; there social art
Has level'd mankind by their selfish heart—
There no contented middle class we trace,
The sole ambition to be rich and base.
Some o'er their native element elate,
Like ice-formed islands, tow'r in frozen state,
Repel all nature with their gelid breath,
And what seems harbour is the jaw of death.
The wretched mass beat down, the strugging mind,
Nor see nor feel their country, or their kind:
But bow the back, and bend the eye to earth,
And strangle feeling in its infant birth;
Thro' all extends one sterile swamp of soul,
And fogs of apathy invest the whole."

The world appears to be divided into two classes, the *dupers* and the *duped*. The former make up for the smallness of their number by their superior dexterity, and their acting together in compact and by a kind of concert. The latter can only recover the long withheld rights of private judgment, by a moderate temperate assertion of their claims, and by calmly using their endeavours to increase their stock of knowledge and information. They then would not resign the important privilege of thought, nor would wars be carried on for the aggrandizement of the *few* to the oppression of the *many*. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

WHEN I suggested a few hints on the subject of saving bees during winter, I omitted mentioning the feeding of them, not because I was not aware of its importance, but because I conceived that observations on that point would more properly appear in a future number. The best time for feeding bees, is, I apprehend, early in spring, when upon examination, it is found, that the store laid up for the winter is not sufficient for their support, till they can procure a supply from the gardens and fields; I admit that it is proper to examine the hives immediately after the working season is over; that is the time when the proprietor is to determine which hives he ought to keep for the ensuing season; for it is extremely wrong to suffer hives not intended for stocks to remain after this period. Bees will consume more honey in one month towards the end of autumn, than during the whole winter. But I am of opinion, that it is best to leave such hives as it is proper to keep till the next season, with the store which has been collected, till toward spring when they are to be attended to, and fed, if necessary. It is not worth keeping a hive that does not weigh from 18 to 20 pounds, and a hive of this weight will in general be found to have a sufficient supply of honey, especially if there be a long continuance of cold, severe weather during the winter months; if there should happen to be much mild open weather, during winter, the bees will consume more honey; but it is time enough to examine early in spring, whether they have, or have not a competent supply: the exception to this is, when for some particular reason, we wish to keep a weak hive till the next season. In this case, it is necessary to grant the bees an immediate supply of honey, after the working season is over, to prevent them perishing, as sometimes happens, before the winter sets in, or during the winter months. It is not to be expected however, that hives which it is necessary to supply in this manner will repay the proprietor for his trouble and

expense. It is better to have a few strong hives, than to have a considerable number, which it is necessary to feed from time to time.

Various methods have been suggested by ingenious men for feeding bees. Some recommend to put honey diluted with water, into an empty comb, split reeds, or clean wool; and Wildman describes a particular kind of vessel which he invented for the purpose. Perhaps the very best plan which can be adopted is to feed bees with honey-comb, especially if that be true which is stated by the authors of the "Maison Rustique," that pure honey does not form a food sufficiently substantial for them and consequently subjects them to disorders. They advise therefore to feed bees with honey-comb, taken from another hive, the cells of which are filled with crude wax or bee-bread.

If honey-comb cannot be procured, raise the hive from the board on which it is placed, and set underneath it a small plate of liquid honey, covered with paper pierced full of holes, through this the bees will suck the honey without daubing themselves. In a few days the plate may be removed, and an additional supply afforded, if necessary. In case honey cannot be procured, dissolve fine sugar in water so as to make it of the consistence of liquid honey, and present it to the bees in the manner above described, or fill with it the cells of an empty honey-comb, and place it under the hive. Some prefer dissolving the sugar in milk, supposing that they thus obtain a substance more resembling honey. The use of milk can certainly do no harm, though I do not imagine that by this process any particular advantage is gained, with respect to the bees; I confess however that I have not made experiments sufficient to determine this point. Let those who have occasion to feed several hives, try different substances. It is certainly an object to such to ascertain what is most proper for the sustenance of their bees.

I may conclude these remarks by observing that it is adviseable to be rather generous than otherwise in feeding weak hives. By affording them an abundant supply, they will be more forward in spring. Bees are faithful stewards, and will amply repay their master for the plentiful provision he may make for their support. They will be stronger in spring, will most probably swarm earlier in summer, and produce more and larger swarms than hives which have been provided with a scanty store. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

LAWRENCE STERNE has found a defender in your last month's Magazine. I cannot agree in the opinion, that the death of an author should excuse him from just criticism. If his works survive and continue to have an injurious tendency on the public taste, no false delicacy should exempt them from merited censure. When I sent the Anecdotes of Sterne, I professed to have little acquaintance with his writings; I once made an attempt to read his Tristram Shandy, but found the first chapter so *gross* in its manner, that I closed the book with disgust. I like wit, but detest obscenity. I read his Sentimental Journey many years ago; and in it also I met with much to displease. His pruriency of manner was more glossed over, but on that account not less dangerous, for with an affectation of being refined, the delineation of some of his scenes is calculated to give other ideas than directly meet the ear; as in his account of the Fille de Chambre.

I give the following quotation from the Encyclopædia Britannica.

"In every serious page, and in many of much levity, the author writes in praise of benevolence, and declares that no one who knew him could suppose him one of those wretches who heap misfortune upon misfortune. But we have heard anecdotes of him extremely well authenticated, which prove that it was easier for him to praise this virtue than to practice it. His wit is universally allowed; but many readers have persuaded themselves that they found wit in his blank pages, while it is probable that he intended nothing but to amuse himself with the idea of the sage conjectures to which these pages would give occasion. Even his originality is not such as is generally supposed by those fond

admirers of the Shandean manner, who have presumed to compare him with Swift, Arbuthnot and Butler. He has borrowed both matter and manner from various authors, as every reader may be convinced by the learned, elegant and candid comments on his works, published by Dr. Ferriar, in the fourth volume of the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society at Manchester." *Encyclopædia Britan.* Article, Sterne.

To those who are curious to detect the plagiarisms of Sterne, Dr. Ferriar's Essay above alluded to, will present many specimens of his attempts to deck his writings with borrowed plumes. Dr. Ferriar has traced Sterne's obligation to Rabelais, Dr. Ferrand, Marivaux, Crebillon, Dr. Donne, Dr. Fludd, and especially to Burton in his Anatomy of Melancholy; from the latter he appears to have borrowed so implicitly as in many instances to ridicule the follies of Burton's age, though they were not characteristic of the popular errors of the age in which Sterne lived; Dr. Ferriar remarks that "Sterne laughs at many exploded opinions and abandoned fooleries, and contrives to degrade some of his most solemn passages, by a *vicious levity*." He further adds, "I have often wondered at the pains bestowed by Sterne, in ridiculing opinions not fashionable in his day, and have thought it singular, that he should produce the portrait of his Sophist, Mr. Shandy, with all the stains and mouldiness of the last century about him. For the love of scarce and whimsical books, was no vice of the time when Tristram Shandy appeared. But I am now convinced that all the singularities of that character were drawn from the perusal of *Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy;* not without reference, however, to the peculiarities of Burton's life, who is alleged to have fallen a victim to his astrological studies. We are told, accordingly, that Mr. Shandy had faith in astrology."

Charges of plagiarisms in his sermons are also substantiated against Sterne, by Dr. Ferriar, who demonstrates that he borrowed not only the general cast of sentiment, but even the very words from Bishop Hall in a variety of instances.

In a frivolous age, Sterne will doubtless have many admirers and advocates. Yet it is pleasing to observe that the number of his imitators is daily diminishing. A chaster, more delicate, and refined style of writing has made its way; and for this improvement I think we are indebted to many highly interesting and elegant female writers of the present day. They in a very considerable degree have contributed to refine our taste, and to banish that *grossness* of expression which defaced the pages of some of the most eminent writers in the beginning and middle of the 18th century. The Barbaulds, the Edgeworths, the Hamiltons, the Burneys, the Hays, the Wakefields, and other female writers have produced this highly pleasing improvement. To the debts we already owed to women, for most of what is truly pleasing and amiable in private life, these writers have laid us under additional obligations by refining our literary taste, and inducing, by the force of their examples, the writers of the other sex to adopt a greater delicacy of style. I congratulate my contemporaries on this improvement. The youth of both sexes need not now fear to meet, in general, in modern works of approved reputation with passages like those, which frequently occur in the pages of Sterne, calculated to

"Give virtue scandal, innocence a fear,
Or from the soft ey'd virgin steal a tear;"

and where we are afraid of meeting in every line with something to shock the feelings of delicacy and modesty, and rendering the task of reading aloud in a mixed company, a precarious office. I regret to add that from this praise, I am compelled to exempt some passages in the writings of the *unequal* Burns, who may be characterized in the language in which the eccentric Dermody describes himself;

"Now Earth-enamoured, grov'lling with the worm,
Now seraph-plum'd, the wonderful, the wild."

The writings of Thomas Moore deserve still severer censure, and some of his female imitators have further disgraced themselves and their sex by their amatory effusions.

A READER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE education of youth is a subject on which, although much has been said, and perhaps much done in some places of this Kingdom, yet it must be confessed much remains both to be said and done, even in this enlightened province. The necessity and importance of education to youth ought to be strongly felt by every friend to virtue, and in proportion to the strength of this feeling ought their anxious endeavours to be used in order to promote and encourage this great, this important national concern. In most towns of this province there is a pretty good opportunity of children being educated so far as appears necessary for transacting the common affairs of life, but it is the country schools, of which I intend to speak, and I hope in this I shall have the concurrence of many of your readers. The country in general is so badly supplied with schools, and these conducted on so bad a footing that to all appearance, if some means be not employed to prevent it, the great mass of the rising generation, will degenerate into ignorance, and consequently into barbarism. In many places of the country there is no school-house, and here the only means of educating their children is every summer (for in winter there is rarely any school) to entrust them to the care of some wandering school-master without knowing any thing either of his moral character or his capacity; both may perhaps be good, but if so, then it follows that it is a national disgrace, that men of good character and abilities have no better provision for their subsistence than by wandering from place to place, and often so reduced in appearance as not to be fit to be seen in any respectable company. But to return, the number of children in these schools is often so large, and being stowed up in some barn, where they have neither air, light, nor proper necessaries, it is not to be wondered at, even were the teacher's abilities very good, that their progress should be but small, besides the small pittance paid for wages in these places will not afford any prospect of making a comfortable livelihood; therefore the number of school-masters is very much decreasing, although the encreasing population of the country and the improved methods of teaching would require a very great additional number. In places where school-houses are built, from the smallness of the wages, and from the small number of scholars who attend in winter, the people are under the necessity of either employing a man whose capacity will not enable him to do better, or of wanting altogether instruction for their children; which I know is the case at the present time, in many places. In order to remove all these difficulties, in order to promote the happiness of the rising generation, who are entrusted by their Creator to the care of the more advanced in years, and in better circumstances, and for whose moral and religious education we all stand awfully responsible, let us turn our attention to the means necessary for that great end. This can only be done by exciting a laudable exertion among teachers, and endeavouring to encrease their number, by paying men properly qualified a proper annual salary, and as there are many who are unable to be at the expense of paying properly for their children, I am confident there are many public spirited gentlemen, who would contribute largely for this valuable purpose; the government of the country too, no doubt would assist, were the application to come through a proper channel, as the members thereof must, in common with every reasonable man, be sensible of the great necessity there is for such an event, as well as the great benefits which arise to every well regulated community, from the proper education of youth. Were schools once regularly and conveniently established through the country, and properly conducted, a laudable emulation would arise among teachers, and they would take proper care to be duly qualified for their business, as they would then have the prospect of being rewarded for their trouble which is undoubtedly the best stimulus to exertion that can be used. If any of your numerous and respec-

table readers will add any thing to these hints, they will it is hoped meet with that success which every virtuous endeavour merits.

A FRIEND TO YOUTH.

Saintfield, Jan. 12, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,

WHAT is the cause of the increasing immorality and irreligion of the present age, notwithstanding the rapid advances we are making in science and literature?

The system of education has been advancing gradually during the last 30 years, both in the useful and ornamental walks of northern literature; in the former of which our progress is, in a great measure, to be ascribed to the benevolent and ingenious MANSON. He contributed largely to the banishment of a difficult catechism, and the unintelligible cant of Hebrew names, and substituted in their room the allurements of emulation, the enlargement and culture of the soul, which have produced the fruits of temporal, and we trust, of eternal life, to many of the most respectable inhabitants of your flourishing town. Profiting by his example, others have improved upon his plan, and *mere* classics have been superseded by a regular course of mercantile learning, scientific classics, and polite literature. These scattered rays I shall rejoice to see collected into one focus in the capital of the North, and thence diverging in well tempered lustre from the majestic brow of Donnard, to the towering cliffs of Mangerton.

But let not mere theory, nor the glare of human learning dazzle our eyes so, that we shall not discover the gloom of infidelity, the false tapers of superstition, and the pitfalls of immorality, that encompass us on all sides. That religious impression has been on the decline for the last twenty years, we may see, from the general disregard of external ordinances, in the Northern Metropolis, from the thin attendance on public worship, from the general breach of the Sabbath, from the applause bestowed on loose deistical observations in private companies, as well as from the instances of perjury, that so frequently trip the course of law in our courts of justice.

The party spirit, that some years since rendered oaths so common, and bent religion and morals to the madness that ruled the hour, was not a *cause*, but a *consequence* of this consumption of the soul. The true cause we shall find in our system of education, in our neglecting, or making a secondary consideration of what ought to be a primary consideration, viz. the teaching Christian duty as a distinct *integral*, and at the same time, a *constituent* part of modern education.

For though, neither the Assembly's Catechism, nor the Scriptures ought to be used as constant school-books, lest the difficulty of them, as elementary books, might give an early distaste to light, life, and happiness, yet ought we not so fastidiously to reject our forefathers' prepossessions in favour of the Book of Life, as to banish it entirely from our schools. By this means, we have got rid of superstition indeed, but by the same new-fangled sweeping act, we have sent into exile all knowledge of the scriptures, domestic prayer, and religious impression. Religion is completely superseded by the news of the day, the rate of markets, speculation, embargo, farming, and slander.

Now, the cure I propose, is the introducing of the Scriptures into the Schools, at least one day in every week, selecting such passages as are most suitable to their tender capacities, and most impressive of the pious and moral principles of truth, honesty, peace, love to God, and love to our neighbour. The giving and requiring, alternately, the necessary explanation of such passages, without meddling with the peculiar tenets of any church, could not fail to rescue the rising generation from the fangs of ignorant infidelity. I shall probably in your next number, develope a very simple plan of reform, for the education of youth, that has engrossed my thoughts for some years past, and that, if adopted by government, would, I trust, give new life, system, and energy to

the schools of Ireland, and at the same time restore us to the fostering bosom of Christianity.

January 27, 1809. SIMPLEX.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE EFFECT OF GENTLE TREATMENT IN TAMING ANIMALS, EXEMPLIFIED.

THAT a gentler mode than is generally pursued of taming, or as it is termed, of breaking animals, for the use of man, might be equally advantageous is usually allowed, but seldom practised. We are satisfied with acquiring their services, without much regarding the means by which they are procured, and are unwilling to submit to the tedious course of milder perseverance, while we have in our power the speedier one of severe discipline, not reflecting how frequently, when the lash is withheld, the violence of their nature will break out, even on their immediate masters. I acknowledge that the conduct of a brute is the result of habit however impressed, but it is still a question, and will probably ever remain so, whether habits of patient submission, and endurance of abuse, could not as well be obtained, especially among the nobler species of creatures, whose spirited exertion adds so much to their value, by mild and gentle treatment, as by the harsher methods generally pursued. I am inclined to think that brutes as well as men, have feelings that may be wrought upon, and affections that may be turned to our advantage, if treated with indulgence; and this I shall attempt to establish in a popular manner. I will relate a story which happened almost entirely within my own knowledge, of a dog whose ferocious habits were totally removed, by familiarizing him with the very object on which his fierceness had been accustomed to display itself.

Joe, the subject of my story, was of a mixed breed between a Newfoundland-dog and a mastiff, and first saw light on board an American trader, where he also spent the first six or seven months of his life. About this age, he was given to a gentleman near Londonderry, and when leading on shore, for the first time in his life, either from his ignorance of creatures that he had never met with before, or prompted by his natural ferocity, he darted from the hand that was leading him, and fastened upon the neck of a horse that was passing by, from which he was with great difficulty disengaged by his master, whose exertions, no doubt, were much strengthened by the dread of having to pay for the horse.

In the possession of his new master he watched the house, yards, and offices, kept intruders at a distance, and was considered by the marauders round this gentleman's seat, as a most vigilant guard, and most terrible enemy to their pilfering. But surely if perfection is not the lot of man, we can hardly expect it in a brute. Joe's good qualities were sullied, and his vigilance and fidelity rendered almost useless to his master, by his fierceness. For though he lived in luxury, and meals were provided purposely for him, he could not repress his fondness for fresh mutton. The gentleman's sheep were found killed at night, and the delinquency was traced to Joe; he, like rational creatures might plead the force of a natural passion, but it would not be allowed him, and death or banishment must be the consequence of a repetition of his crime. Various plans were pursued to break him of this habit, and among others the following; he was muzzled, his limbs tied up, and in this condition laid across the door of an out-house, into which the sheep had been previously driven; they were then forced out; most of them sprung over him, dreading him even when fallen; but the ram could not pass this opportunity of revenging his slaughtered companions, and his own terrors, and stepping back, butted at him with all his might. This he was suffered to repeat as long as it was thought the dog could endure it. Joe was at length delivered from him, and untied; such was the severity of the discipline he underwent, that he was hardly able to limp to the kitchen fire; the rustics rejoicing in his downfall, and prophesying that he would never again meddle with the sheep.

In this hope, Joe was again permitted to go his rounds. He still exerted his useful qualities in his master's service; he continued watchful and faithful, but he could not

command his passions. How long he looked over the wall of the sheep-fold before he leaped it, whether he listened with one paw on the top-stone, for the shouts of the servants exulting in his fallen state at the stable door, or whether he felt any compunction from the bruises he received there, or when he did make the spring, whether he avoided the ram that took such an ungenerous advantage of him, I do not know, but this I know, that sheep were killed, and the deaths again traced to Joe.

Here severity bordering upon cruelty had an opportunity of fully displaying its power, here the effect of violence upon natural habits might clearly be traced. The experiment was tried and it failed. It remains for me to tell how the feelings of this creature were so wrought upon by gentleness, that his nature was totally changed. I acknowledge the change arose from accidental circumstances, but the greatest discoveries can boast no nobler birth, and if any one wish to try a new mode of treatment to brutes, this accident may serve as a model.

A lamb that was deserted by its dam, was brought into the house and put under the care of a woman servant; it was kept in the upper part of a hen-coop, to secure it from the dog, who was observed to look at it very wistfully; and its safety was imputed to its being out of his reach. When the woman fed the lamb, she at first inadvertently gave what remained of its milk to the dog, and Joe began to attend the lamb's meals regularly, for the sake of what he left, and at length became so well reconciled to him, that he used to lick the milk that spilled about the lamb's chops. The woman observing this, improved upon the hint, and now purposely dropped milk upon the lamb which the dog as regularly licked off his woolly coat, without attempting to offer it the least violence. It now became unnecessary to put the lamb out of Joe's reach, and before the spring was far advanced, the two slept together before the fire, the lamb frequently lying between the paws of the greatest enemy to his race. By the time summer had set in, the lamb, by having been a great pet with the younger part of the family, became very troublesome in the house, and was sent along with others, to a sheep-walk about a mile distant. No sooner had it departed than Joe was missed, and no account was got of him for a day or two, when the family learned from the herd, that he had followed his favourite, and he and the lamb were found lying together, in the midst of the sheep. From that time his entire disposition seemed to have undergone a change: he is less apt to be sullen or sulky towards the domestics, and the youngest child plays with him, without exciting any apprehension for his safety. He now protects the sheep, that he used to worry, and attacks those strange dogs that venture in among the flock; and it may not be undeserving of being mentioned, that in one of these encounters, the lamb, now well grown, came to his assistance, and butted at the stranger, until he was forced to fly.

This I acknowledge may be considered as a solitary instance, on which a change of conduct ought not to be founded; and the objection will be allowed its full force by me with respect to rational creatures, on whom the power of habit exerts itself differently, in different persons, according to their various capacities of reason or fancy; on some it acts with vigour, while others seem totally to reject its influence. But in regard to brutes, their instructive faculties seem nearly on a level, and of course an alteration in the habits of one, will be effected by the same means, that produced a change in those of another. It is well known that the harsh methods generally in use, will produce the same effects in one as another, and why may not a contrary mode of treatment be equally effectual in each?

S. Y. N.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON perusing a volume of the transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, I met the following curious description of some ancient trumpets, which had been dug out of a bog, in the neighbourhood of Armagh, not many years ago.

The description of them as given by the late Dr. Browne, of Trinity College, Dublin, is as follows;

"The colour of the trumpet is that of brass; the smell also that of brass; for they left on the fingers a very disagreeable odour, not easily or quickly removed.

"Their antiquity appears from the peculiarity of the metallic composition, which is different from any of modern times; and from the parts being joined entirely by rivets, evidently before the art of soldering was known; and from the ornaments about the entire, I think it is plain, that they must have appertained to a nation not in a state of barbarism. Not being an antiquarian I do not venture to say more. When I saw them, they were not sufficiently in repair, or tight to produce sound, but one of them had been made by an artist, in the vulgar expression, air-tight, and sounded by a trumpeter belonging to the 23d regiment of Dragoons, and as I was informed, produced a tremendous sound, which could be heard for miles; by the description I should conceive, resembling the most terrific of all sounds which I have heard, according to my fancy, the Oriental Gong."

To this account is annexed a draft of the instrument itself, with its proportions marked. Hence it appears to have been six feet long, but to have been bent into a form nearly semicircular, the diameter of which from the mouth-piece to the vent is four feet. The mouth-piece itself is an inch broad, but the bore of the tube appears not to have been half that breadth, widening however gradually to the other end, where its diameter is three inches and three quarters. The vent is ornamented by a circular plate of brass, which from its appearance in the plate I conceive to be either wrought in a kind of chased work or engraved; no notice is taken of it in the description.

It is said that four of them had been dug up at the same time and nearly in the same place; and that there is a tradition, that a mighty battle was once fought there, and that some king of Ulster had his palace not far distant; but when, or between whom the combat was reported to have been, no information could be collected.

As your Magazine has now such an extensive circulation, and must no doubt be in the hands of many persons residing in the neighbourhood of the place where these relics of antiquity were discovered, I wish to make it the medium of an inquiry, whether there be any more satisfactory traditional account of the circumstances here alluded to; and also whether these trumpets are still in existence, and where they may be found. I would suggest the propriety of having them lodged in some public Museum, where they may remain as lasting records; for when in the hands of an individual there is reason to fear that sooner or later they will be neglected, forgotten, and perhaps finally perish.

If any of your Correspondents from that neighbourhood will favour me with the above information they will highly gratify

A CONSTANT READER.

Belfast, Feb. 4, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF ARMAGH.

THE Barony of Armagh is justly entitled to pre-eminence in the county, whether it be considered as to the superior quality of its soil, its greater population, or as being the seat of the metropolis of the county.

The soil is lime-stone, and it abounds with numerous quarries of this valuable fossil; the lands are in good heart, the enclosures in excellent order, and the fields judiciously divided in proportion to the size of the farms; the hedges are of white-thorn, the country is thickly cropped, and the whole surface displays a close neighbourhood of neat and comfortable cottages.

Approaching the city of Armagh, from the westward, or from the bounds of Monaghan county, the prospect is enriched with a considerable quantity of plantation; on the frontiers are the improvements of Glaslough demesne, with those of the Earl of Caledon, which extend into this county; from hence to the vicinity of Killyleagh-village, as far as the eye

can reach, the surface is beautifully undulated, and the small conical hills have their summits crowned with clumps of forest trees, and ever-greens; these new improvements are strikingly interesting to the traveller, as he approaches towards the interior, and convey a chearful happy appearance.

This fine range of country, including the neat demesne of Elm-park, is in the possession of Robert Maxwell, esq. and joins a great extent of lands, the property of the Rev. Henry Maxwell, and John Maxwell, esq. The residence of Elm-park is low, and beautifully surrounded with plantations, which are arranged with very judicious taste.

The village of Killyleagh consists of but one long street, which is very tedious, as it stands on a very steep hill; the houses are well built of lime and stone, with a clean and neat exterior. This village is not remarkable for any trade, but on the last Friday in each month a fair is held, principally attended by dealers in horses.

From hence, as we approach the city of Armagh, the soil, though still limestone, yet changes to a purple hue; from Monaghan bounds to this vicinity it is of a whitish colour, more easily becomes calcined, and is of a much more calcareous quality than the reddish lime-stone.

If its value in this respect is diminished, it is however considerably advanced in another instance, as it now approaches to a species of marble, and, the nearer we approach Armagh, this fossil appears of a more beautiful and excellent quality, and has a greater variety of shade and colour; the prevailing hue is of a reddish brown, and not unlike Egyptian marble in the dispersion of its small blots and patches; the cross lines and dendrites are of a lively shade, and are strongly marked. Another species of marble found here is of a yellow ground, and the dendrites are of a deep red; a third kind is of a dusky brown, but takes the finest polish, and is faintly streaked with white veins, which are generally circular; and a fourth species has a ruddy hue, streaked and spotted with both yellow and white; the several kinds of this fossil, which are found in this county, are ranked under that description, which mineralogists call plum-pudding marble, from its resemblance to it in its patches. Many of the chimney-pieces in Armagh, and indeed for several miles around, are of its native marble, but few of them display the hand of a masterly artist.

On the Blackwater river, which is the boundary of this county from that of Tyrone, stand two towns, which are both in this barony, viz. Charlemont, and Blackwater-town. They are remarkable as to the pleasantness of their situation, but have no respectable trade. The former town is connected by the bridge with the Moy, which has both a post and fair, but it is situate in the county of Tyrone. Until the act of Union, Charlemont was a borough town, in the patronage of the Earl of Charlemont, and returned two members to parliament; it is governed by a Portrieve, and has also a military governor on the staff, with a barrack for three companies of foot. From this town the family of Caulfield take the title of Earl.

The Blackwater river forms a very beautiful and grand feature along the boundary, flowing between spacious and fertile banks, which are partially covered with plantation. This fine water first comes in view near the town of Caledon, as we approach from Monaghan borders, and from the handsome bridge, which here crosses the river; the prospect is from either side very interesting, whether we look to the highly improved demesne of Lord Caledon, which extends to the bridge, or down the river towards Armagh, where the country is so fertile and ornamented with capital inclosures; the whole line of road from Glaslough to Caledon is very pleasing, comprising the finest views of Glaslough and Caledon demesnes. In this point of view, Caledon-house stands to great advantage, on a very elevated site, and exhibits a model of beautiful and modern architecture.

All this country, which I have described, yields the finest wheat crops.

The only town or village west of Armagh, and at about six miles distance, is Keady, where there is little

else to recommend it, in its present state, than a very good church. Its natural situation is favourable, having a fine stream, the river Callen, intersecting the town. On this water are numerous bleach-greens and mills, from hence to Armagh; this appearance of wealth and commerce is very engaging, and the busy scenes on these banks are enlivened with many ornamental improvements. The bleach-green of Messrs. Holmes are the most considerable in the district. The river Callen flows between lofty banks, contiguous to the village of Keady, or rather in a deep or narrow glen; in these banks are indications of several minerals, as lead-ore, manganese, and ochres.

The Earl of Farnham is proprietor of the very rich lead mines, which the late Earl worked extensively, near Keady. Samples of this ore are in the Dublin Society's Museum.

The country in this vicinity, towards Monaghan, is wild and rude, but reclaiming fast. Land, within these fifteen years past, has nearly doubled in value, and is now set at the average rate of sixteen shillings per acre, though without limestone; it had been within the memory of the present age, almost all in heath and absolute waste.

The city of Armagh stands on very high ground, in the midst of a finely improved and beautiful country. The river Callen flows at the foot of the hill, just below the town, on its passage to the Blackwater river, into which it is discharged near Charlemont.

The cathedral, which is on the summit of the hill, has a commanding site, and is a conspicuous object at a considerable distance. This edifice commands our attention, whether we consider its antiquity, or its pre-eminence, as being the metropolitan church of Ireland.

The church is said to have been originally built of willows, or wattles, like most of the primitive churches, before the use of stone and mortar in building was known; from thence it was named Drumsailech, or, the church built of willows; or Ardsailech, the high place of willows: but Ware says this name refers to the vicinity of the town, which was crowded with willows growing on the banks of the river Callen.*

Such was the state in which it was, when St. Patrick here fixed his see, Anno 445, and was the first bishop. This hill, or rising ground, being granted to him by Daire, a chief of the adjacent country, he changed the name of the place to Ardmagh, or the high place or plain. St. Patrick† founded the abbey for the regular order of Augustinian canons, Anno 457, which he dedicated to the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, and which, for several centuries, was the most celebrated school for theology in Christendom, and, during the middle ages, was not only much resorted to by the natives, but also by the Anglo Saxons from Britain. There existed another good reason for this place having been chosen by St. Patrick for the founding of his metropolitan see; as a royal residence is recorded to have stood in this neighbourhood, and also a famous city, the capital of Ulster, which was called Eamhaim, or Eamania, derived from *eam-huim-uc*, which signifies, the potent or noble city. It was said to have been founded by a Scotch prince, above two centuries before Christ, and was sacked and burned by Caibre Liffechar, a chief of Connaught, in the fourth century.‡

St. Patrick, after having remained for ten years in the primacy, resigned it to St. Benignus, and lived, in private, to see it descend to three successors, all of whom he nominated. He died

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* This part of the river was noted for being the spot where king Nial was drowned, who was succeeded by Malachi the first.

† See Ware's account of the bishops of the see; and see Jocelyn, the Lancashire monk, in his Life of St. Patrick, chap. 165. "He placed his archbishop's see in the same city, designing it for the primacy, metropolis, and mistress of all Ireland." And chap. 166; "He built the metropolitan church of Ardmagh for the good of souls, and for the good of that city and the whole kingdom."

‡ Colgan says the ruins of this city were standing in his time; Mr. O'Connor places its building 353 years before Christ.

on the 17th of March, 492, and was buried in the county of Down.

The reader who is curious to trace his successors, the bishops of Ardmagh, will find them recorded in Ware, with some curious historical annals, down to 1678, when Michael Boyle was in that year translated to Armagh; and another list of the archbishops of this see will be found in Bateson's Political Index, to the enthronement of Doctor Richard Robinson, in 1765, who was afterwards Lord Rokeby, and whose munificence to the see and town of Armagh will record his memory to the latest posterity. His Lordship's successor was Doctor William Newcome, who was succeeded by his Grace the present Primate, the Honourable and Reverend Doctor William Steuart, who numbereth the hundred and fifth bishop of Armagh.

A monastery was built here by St. Columba, Anno 610, which, with the town, was nearly consumed by fire, in the years 670 and 687, and was frequently plundered by the Danes, the inhabitants massacred, and the books, records, and treasures carried off by those free-booters, which has been an irreparable loss to the civil and ecclesiastical history and antiquities of Ireland.

In the year 1013, the bodies of King Brian Boromh, and his son Murchaid, with the heads of his nephew Conoing, and of Prince Mothlan his ally, who were slain at the battle of Clontarf, near Dublin, were removed to the cathedral of Armagh from the monastery of Swords, where they had been buried for five years. As this monarch and his family had been liberal benefactors to this see, they were interred with great pomp. The king himself was buried in a stone coffin on the north side of the church; and Murchaid, and the heads of Conoing, and Prince Mothlan on the south side.

The archbishoprick of Armagh was not constituted till the year 1142, when at the same time were the others of Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam, by Cardinal Papirio, who was sent to Ireland by Pope Eugenius, with the consent of the king, dukes, bishops, abbots, and states of the kingdom, to reform the abuses, which had crept into the church discipline.

This cathedral was often burned from intestine commotions, and, on being rebuilt, was always enlarged, particularly by Patrick Scanlan, Anno 1262, who was then bishop. His successor, Nicholas Molessa, added several valuable gifts, bestowed his manor of Dromiskin to the see, and charged his manor Tlomonfeckin with twenty marks annually towards the enlargement of the edifice.

The see of Armagh was valued in the king's books, in an extent taken in the 30th of Henry VIII. at 183*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* Irish money; but, by an extent returned in the 15th of James I. it is valued at 400*l.* per annum, and pays so much first fruits. It is rated to be at present worth 8000*l.* per annum.

The dignitaries are the Dean, Chanter, Chancellor, Treasurer and Archdeacon. Of the vicars choral are two priests, one of whom was added by Primate Marsh, Anno 1702. In 1720, Primate Lindsay procured a charter to encrease the vicars choral to eight, and expended 4000*l.* in the purchase of property to encrease the estate of the choir. There is also an organist attending on the cathedral service. The choir is reputed to be superior to any in Ireland, and its discipline is most particularly attended to.

The cathedral, in its present shape, represents the figure of a cross; from the point of intersection a square tower is raised, from which branch off, at right angles, the four compartments of the cathedral. The elevation of the tower is well proportioned to the height of the roof,* and would be complete if a steeple was raised on it, which was intended, when the general repair was given to the cathedral by Primate Robinson; but, by the obstinacy of the architect, in opposition to the opinion of Lord Rokeby, the walls of the old tower were built on, which were afterwards found not equal to the support of a steeple,

* This remark may appear erroneous, if this edifice is only viewed from the market-place *en passant*, as it stands on a very abrupt and bold hill, and, consequently, but a small part comes in view from the street, at its base, but from without the town it is seen to great advantage.

having failed in several places, which occasioned the finishing of the tower in its present form.

Within the aisles of the cathedral are some monuments; amongst the best executed is that of Doctor Drelincourt, who was dean of this see. An extensive burial ground surrounds the cathedral, which is enclosed with a very strong, though not a lofty wall; and through it is made a very neat gravel walk, approaching the cathedral from the several entrances.

The city of Armagh is indebted to the spirited and munificent liberality of Primate Robinson, who was the founder, or rather the donor of all the elegant public buildings which it is so justly celebrated for, and of the rebuilding and planning the very capital streets, which adorn it, and make it very superior to all the inland towns in Ireland; and, by the care of Lord Rokeby, the permanency of his endowments was secured by several acts of Parliament obtained for that purpose. From his Grace's example, encouragement, and assistance, and very much indeed at his private expence, this most ancient city has been renovated into its present style of modern beauty, and its police is managed by wise and strict regulations.

After having given a general repair, with some additions of ornament, to the cathedral, Lord Rokeby's love of literature was displayed in founding a library, which is a very handsome public building, and well designed for the purpose, which he filled with the most scarce and valuable store of books, of ancient and modern literature; having bestowed on it a property, as a perpetual fund, for the encrease of the books, the repairs of the house, and the salary of a librarian, for whom are assigned a suit of very elegant apartments within the building. The revenue for this establishment is now a perpetuity, and yields 300*l.* per annum.

The observatory, which stands just without the town, is another edifice, of very elegant appearance, which owes its existence to his Grace's munificence. This he also endowed with a perpetual fund, which, with the lands annexed to it, is worth 400*l.* per annum to the resident astronomer, who has fine apartments, and a very elegant demesne. The observatory stands on an elevated site, and is well furnished with the most valuable and costly instruments, which this noble patron of the sciences furnished at no less expence than 3000*l.*

Immediately opposite this beautiful building, and at the base of a hill, on which it stands, his Grace erected a spacious and regular edifice for the endowed school of Armagh, which was laid down on so large a scale, as to acquire the distinguishing appellation of the College of Armagh, which it has since retained. It may be proper to remark in this place, that even these extensive concerns were only a small part of what his Lordship intended them to be; his great design was to erect a university in this city, which should have been on the most extensive scale; and all his improvements and plans were intended as tributary to this grand scheme. It was a favourite object with this good primate, to encourage literature and the sciences, which this vast project would so amply provide for; but it was necessary to have the assistance of government in this respect, though he intended, had they seconded his laudable views, to have dedicated his own ample fortune towards its success. Whatever were the objections of government to this great national benefit, they did not immediately unite with Lord Rokeby, although they gave reason to expect, that the time was not remote when they might support it. After a long interval, Lord Rokeby despaired at last of being able to see his favourite object accomplished; but, in order towards setting it afloat, he bequeathed by his will 5000*l.* for that purpose, provided the plan was adopted, and the first stone laid within five years after his decease. He conceived that, as he left the matter to be adopted by the wisdom of the legislature, which he could not have the direction of when in their hands, it would be a national concern, and would require but small individual aid, which occasioned his limiting his bequest to 5000*l.* Had his project been adopted

when he first proposed it to government, he would doubtless have bestowed on it the principal part of his fortune, as he was often heard to declare. The benefit of this valuable legacy has not been embraced, and the limited time has elapsed, without any step having been taken; of course it has reverted to the conditions of the will; nor is there any probability that his Lordsip's views, for the founding of this seminary, will ever be adopted. The money he expended on the College of Armagh amounted to full 4000*l.* with which sum, and the funds for that establishment, the present elegant building was raised; and the late Rev. Doctor Grueber, who had long ably discharged the duties of principal, at this time, at an advanced age, resigned on a liberal compensation; and, by the desire of Lord Rokeby, the Rev. Doctor Carpendale, who had with great credit presided at the endowed school of Carrickmacross, was removed to this professorship, nor could his Grace have made choice of a master more eminently qualified for the discharge of this important trust, as the unanimous testimony of the gentlemen fully evince, who have been so fortunate as to receive their education under his careful superintendence.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MODE OF CURING BUTTER.

BUTTER is a substance so well known in this country, that it is needless for us here to give a description of it. It is one of the three component parts of milk, the other two being whey and cheese: it is naturally distributed through all the other substances of the milk in very small particles, which are interspersed betwixt the *caseous* and *serous* parts, amongst which it is suspended by a slight adhesion, but without being dissolved; it is in the same state in which oil is in an emulsion, hence the same whiteness of milk and emulsions, and hence by rest, the oily parts separate from both these liquors to the surface and form a cream; milk may therefore very properly be called an animal emulsion; butter composes its oily part, which by the interposition of its particles gives an opake white colour, the cheese serves as a mucilage to keep the oily parts suspended, and lastly, whey, which is naturally transparent, is the aqueous substance which is a vehicle for the other two. Butter, though used at present as an article of food in most countries of Europe, was scarcely known to the ancients. This is completely proved by Professor Beckmann in the 2nd. volume of his "History of Inventions."

In our translation of the Bible, there is indeed, frequent mention made of butter at very early periods; but as the Professor well observes, the greatest masters of biblical criticism, unanimously agree that the word so translated, signifies milk or cream, or sour thick milk, and cannot possibly mean what we call *butter*. The oldest mention of butter, the Professor thinks, is in the account of the Scythians given by Herodotus (lib. IV. 2) who says, that "these people pour the milk of their mares into wooden vessels, cause it to be violently stirred or shaken by their blind slaves, and separate the part which arises to the surface, as they consider it more valuable and delicious than what is collected below it." That this substance must have been a soft kind of butter is well known, and Hippocrates gives a similar account of Scythian butter, and calls it πιλερίον, which Galen translates by the word βουτυρον.

The poet Anaxandrides, who lived soon after Hippocrates, describing the marriage feast of Iphicrates, who married the daughter of Cotys, king of Thrace, says that the Thracians ate butter, which the Greeks at that time considered as a wonderful kind of food. Diascorides says, that good butter was prepared from the fattest milk, such as that of sheep, or goats, by shaking it in a vessel till the fat was separated. To this butter he ascribes the same effects, when used externally, as those produced by our butter at present. He adds also, and he is the first writer who makes the observation, that fresh butter might be melted and poured over pulse and vegetables instead of oil, and that it might be employed

in pastry, in the room of other fat substances. A kind of soot likewise was at that time prepared from butter, from external applications, which was used in curing inflammation of the eyes and other disorders. For this purpose the butter was put into a lamp and when consumed, the lamp was again filled till the desired quantity of soot was collected in a vessel placed over it. Galen who distinguishes and confirms in a more accurate manner the healing virtues of butter, expressly remarks, that cow's milk produces the fattest butter; that butter made from sheep's or goat's milk is less rich, and that asses' milk yields the poorest. He expresses his astonishment, therefore, that Dioscorides should say that butter was made from the milk of sheep and goats. He assures us that he had seen it made from the milk of cows, and that he believes it had thence acquired its name. "Butter" says he, "may be very properly employed in ointments and when leather is besmeared with it, the same purpose is answered as when it is rubbed over with oil. In cold countries which do not produce oil, butter is used in the baths; and that it is a real fat, may be readily perceived by its catching fire when poured over burning coals." What has been said here is sufficient to show that butter must have been very little known to or used by the Greeks and the Romans in the time of Galen, that is, at the end of the second century.

The Professor having collected, in chronological order, every thing which he could find in the writings of the ancients respecting butter, concludes, that it is not a Grecian, much less a Roman invention, but that the Greeks were made acquainted with it by the Scythians, the Thracians, and the Phrygians, and the Romans, by the people of Germany. And if we can but persuade ourselves to credit our impartial historian, *Gordon*, it is highly probable that the Scythian colonists, who invaded Ireland some centuries before the Christian era, first brought the art of making butter into this country. It appears pretty evident, from the Professor's accurate account, that neither the Greeks nor Romans used butter as food; but only as an ointment, or sometimes as a medicine. The case is at present very different; and as forming no inconsiderable portion of the national wealth of this country, as well as so general an article of food, butter seems entitled to every attention, both to the mode of making and curing of it. We shall accordingly lay before our readers, the following receipt for curing it, which may be found in Dr. Anderson's View of the Agriculture of the county of Aberdeen, who says that he knows of no simple improvement in *economics* greater than this is, when compared with the usual mode of curing butter by means of common salt alone. "I have seen (continued he) the experiment fairly made, of one part of the butter made at one time being cured according to the receipt; and the other part cured with salt alone, the difference was inconceivable. I should suppose that in any open market, the one would sell 30 *per cent* above the other." The receipt is as follows. "Take two parts of the best common salt, one part of sugar, and one part of salt petre; beat them up together and blend the whole completely. Take one ounce of this composition for every sixteen ounces of butter, work it well into the mass, and close it up for use." "The butter cured by the above receipt," says Dr. Anderson, "appears of a rich marrowy consistence and fine colour, and never acquires a brittle hardness nor tastes salt; the other is comparatively hard and brittle, approaching more nearly to the appearance of tallow, and is much salter to the taste. I have ate butter cured with the above composition, that had been kept *three years*, and it was as sweet as at first; but it must be noted, that the butter thus cured requires to stand three weeks or a month before it is begun to be used. If it be sooner opened, the salts are not sufficiently blended with it; and sometimes the coolness of the nitre will be perceived, which totally disappears afterwards."

In addition to this, Dr. Anderson advises against keeping butter in *stone jars*, or letting milk remain long in *leaden vessels*, as they communicate a poisonous quality to the butter or milk

that has been long kept in them, which must inevitably prove destructive to the human constitution; for the well known effects of the poison of lead is bodily debility, palsy, death. And we entirely agree with the Dr. in recommending wooden dishes, when kept thoroughly clean, for holding butter. G.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA....A MORAL TALE.

IN a mean looking house, in one of those unwholesome lanes which disgrace the city of London, among other hapless objects, driven by misfortune to take refuge in it, lived Mrs. St. Clair, and an only daughter. Sorrow, during her early years, she had felt in many shapes; and meagre poverty now formed the bitter climax of her sufferings.

The father of an only brother and herself, was educated for a church clergyman, but unfortunate in interest and recommendation, never attained a higher degree than that of curate, which he filled in an humble village. A brother of Mr. Davenants, who had resided some years in India, sent for his son, early in life; and promised he would for the future provide for him. This weight taken off the worthy curate, he devoted his time solely to the improvement of his daughter, and their humble board, though regulated by economy, never refused a welcome to the unfortunate or to the sincere friend.

Chance, or if our readers please, destiny so decreed, that the young Viscount Loughshiel, only heir to the title and estate of Roxborough, was, by the startling of his horses, thrown from his travelling carriage, within a few paces of the curate's door. Thither, he was conveyed, and the surgeon of the village sent for; who, after the necessary examination, declared his lordship had received no material injury, except a broken arm. Minute particulars are here unnecessary; suffice it to say, that accustomed during his recovery, to the constant society, and attentions of the lovely Rosa, his heart paid a willing tribute to her charms, nor could she long remain insensible of the elegant and polished manners of his Lordship. Accustomed to pay the strictest attention to the duties of his profession, Mr. Davenant never thought it possible that his daughter would venture to raise her eyes to the heir of Roxborough, or that that heir could ever spend a thought on an humble curate's daughter, consequently he left them but too many opportunities of being alone, and in an ill-fated moment, soothed by the most solemn assurances of marriage, the hapless Rosa forgot what was due to her sex and character, nor dreamt of the misery which from that eventful moment attended her. The young lord, now perfectly recovered, had no longer a plea to remain at the cottage, and with innumerable vows of speedy return and unshaken fidelity, reluctantly tore himself from his weeping Rosa, fully convinced that his love could never swerve from its object. But Lord Loughshiel was no more than man. He was a young, and consequently an unsteady one. That he then thought his love would prove as lasting as it was fervent, we will do him the justice to believe true; but no sooner had he beheld the beautiful and admired heiress, Lady Ismena Somerville, just burst upon the gazing world in all the charms of wealth and loveliness, than Rosa, and her more unassuming accomplishments, vanished from memory, or was only recalled to congratulate himself that his infatuated passion had carried him no further than unwitnessed promises.

Oh, man! unfeeling man! licensed in villainy, encouraged in vice! Where are your boasted prerogatives of superiority? Do they consist in trampling on the weak? in oppressing the oppressed? in seducing the unhappy female from the paths of peace and virtue? in glorying in your own wickedness and her shame? In this world, though your lawless passions triumph unchecked, think you not there is a greater, a more awful tribunal, where the burning tears of your victim, the wild desperation of the mother, and the weak cry of the not unfrequently murdered infant, will sound dreadful in your ears, and pronounce your condemnation in terms, bitter and decided as your guilt?

While Lord Loughshiel basked in the smiles of the beautiful Ismena, the unhappy victim of his passion lived but in the expectation of his return. But weeks and months of anxiety rapidly passed over, and to add to the horrors of her situation, she felt she had every prospect of becoming a disgraced and anguished mother. This state of suspense was soon put an end to by a horrible certainty. A weekly paper chanced to fall into her hands, and the following paragraph at once arrested her attention. "Married, on Tuesday evening last, the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Loughshiel, only son and heir to the illustrious house of Roxborough, to the beautiful, and much admired Lady Ismena Sommerville." The unhappy Rosa, read not the account of bridal festivities, which followed. A burning meteor seemed to shoot across her brain, and with an agoni-ed shriek, she sunk at the feet of her father. It now became impossible longer to conceal her situation; the good old curate heard it with a pang, similar to the cold dart of death. He viewed the wreck of all his hopes in bitter agony; but his was not a spirit of wrath; it bowed before the hand which afflicted him. and meekly endeavoured to administer that consolation, he himself felt he could but feebly experience.

"Oh Rosa!" he said, "the stroke falls heavy! but I am chiefly to blame, who left you my child, young, innocent, and inexperienced, to the society and converse of a villain!" Rosa heard him in a state of misery, which hapless woman alone is fated to endure. "We must leave this, Rosa," said the curate; after a short pause. "I will resign my curacy, I could not bear to see the slow moving finger of scorn point at thee." "At thee," he continued, turning aside to conceal the tears which streamed down his venerable cheeks; "who hast been my pride; whom I have held up as a pattern!" his voice grew inaudible.

"Oh! reproach me my father in mercy, as I deserve," said his wretched daughter; "but talk not so feelingly, so leniently of my crime. Ah! still retain your situation, ever hallowed, ever undisturbed; and let the guilty wretch who has brought thy grey hairs to shame and sorrow, wander to some lonely spot, where, unknown, and unregarded, her life and miseries may terminate together." "And what to me, my Rosa, hadst thou left me, would make life valuable?" said the good old man, as he strained an eye of agony on her altered form. "No! no! we will not separate! we will bear the shafts of misfortune together, God will provide for us; I am not yet too old to work!"

As no time was to be lost in their removal, Mr. Davenant hastened to resign his curacy, to the Rector, who resided about six miles distant, and whose age almost incapacitated him from officiating. In a few hasty and agitated words, Mr. Davenant informed him that peculiar circumstances would prevent him from continuing longer in the fulfilment of his office. But the Rector was truly a man of God; and in Mr. Davenant's pallid countenance, his quick tremulous tones, and eye of sadness, he read a dark tale of misery; and so soothing, so heart-consoling was the voice in which he addresed him, so tender, yet so delicate, his inquiries into his situation, that the poor curate, in the fulness of his heart, if he did not altogether betray his secret, left sufficient room for his patron to guess at the reality of it.

"Have you any prospect when you leave this?" said the Rector, after a short pause. Mr. Davenant with a deep sigh answered in the negative. Again the Rector paused; "I have formed a scheme," he at length continued, "which I think will tend to our mutual advantage. A friend of mine wrote to me some time ago, to recommend a gentleman, calculated to fill the office of Curate. I did so and in a few days he was to proceed to his place. He is a young man, and all situations I should suppose are to him alike; therefore as I am doomed to lose you, my worthy friend, what think you of a fair exchange? Suppose I retain the young man, and send you to officiate in his place. A few days will prepare my friend to receive you; He lives within a few miles of London, where you, I believe, are perfectly unknown, and

as you wish to be at a distance from this, I think it will in every respect answer you." Mr. Davenant's gratitude may be better conceived than described. He wrung his benefactor's hand in expressive silence, and with a heart filled with pious thankfulness to God, and him, hastened to cheer the heart of his Rosa, with an account of his goodness. Every preparation was now made for a speedy removal; and the evening before they were to depart, Rosa, in the twilight hour, had stolen out to take a last leave of the scenes of her infancy; the Curate was lost in meditation, when a servant whose livery proclaimed him Lord Loughshiel's, delivered a letter to the maid who opened the door; "for Miss Davenant, said he." The curate hastily snatched it, and with mingled feelings of contempt and indignation read the following;

"*My lovely Rosa*!

I suppose long ere this, you have heard of my damned queer kind of a male up marriage; and are accusing me of falsehood, baseness, &c. but I love you ten thousand times better than I did before it took place; it was all of my father's contriving; all his plan; therefore, my beautiful Rosa, the moment you receive this, my fellow will get you a carriage, and dash up to town directly; where you shall shine in jewels, like a Sultana! ride in a phaeton, handsomer than she, whom I *call wife*, and be ever dearer to the heart of *Loughshiel*."

"Go tell the man who waits." said Mr. Davenant, calmly to the maid-servant, who stood while he read this fashionable scroll, "that an answer shall be sent to the public house of the village an hour hence;" the man retired grinning, and fearful of Rosa's entrance, Mr. Davenant hastened to his study, and thus addressed his Lordship.

"*My Lord*!

"Your favour of the 12th inst. duly reached—not the victim it was meant to crush with the stroke of death, but her hapless, wretched father: start not my Lord! your Lordship is superior to the stings of conscience. Your rank, your consequence, gives you a never failing passport to disseminate vice and misery successfully: and the sorrows of a poor old man, or the heart broken sigh of the lost victim of your licentious arts, excites but the brutal laugh of intoxication, at the debauchee's rout, or the midnight revel! Oh ye libertines! for what do you live? I am an old man and a father; an agonized father! I have therefore a license to be garrulous: I have seen a beauteous innocent bud and blossom in retirement; I have seen her the adored of her father, the idolized of her mother, the admiration of the young, and the boasted pattern of the aged; the comfort of the poor, and the delight of all around her. I have seen this virtuous female, snatched from her pure, and peaceful home; I have seen her, lured by the voice of a specious villain, fluttering a gay meteor, in the paths of licentious dissipation; I have heard her madly scoff the maxims she had been hitherto taught to cherish; I have heard her frantically deny the existence of a *God*, or of a *future state*! but I have also heard the sigh of her heart broken spirit; I have noticed the wild throbbings of her bosom! her mad laugh of despair! and while the sallies of her fevered mirth echoed round the circle of bacchanalians, who attended her, I have groaned in the agony of my spirit. "*Oh! man! boasted man! this is thy work! and for this is it that libertines live!*" I have then traced this poor victim, till deserted by her base seducer, she is consigned to another, and another; till she descend to the last stage of female infamy! I have marked her diseased frame, her pallid cheek, her trembling form, her frenzied eye, eager in pursuit of the only cordial which can now give oblivion to her wretchedness. I have heard that voice, which in the social winter's evening, in her father's house, has given added swiftness to the passing hours of innocence, I have heard it—Oh! merciful heaven! fraught with fearful oaths, and frantic imprecations! I have followed her to her wretched garret, and have seen her abandoned, despised, and miserable, expire in the most pitiable agonies, a loathsome object of disease! I have followed her to the humble grave, allotted her by charity! I have dropped a tear to the hapless victim; and have groaned

forth—*Oh! man! boasted man! this is thy work! and for this is it, that libertines live!*" And now, does your Lordship understand the lesson? Just such, the fate you design for my Rosa, just such, the misery you would consign her to endure. Oh blush! my Lord, blush! and pause in the midst of your career, you have already the satisfaction of reflecting, that, you are not far behind your compeers in iniquity; you have ruined the fair hopes of a young and innocent woman! You have taken a villainous advantage of an unsuspecting old man; you have tinged his grey locks with the bitterest shade of sorrow; for it springs from shame! you oblige him to fly the home of twenty years, to seek a shelter from disgrace and sorrow; and *for this is it, that libertines live!* Take this letter to your closet, my Lord; read it with attention, and in mercy to yourself, and others, quit your broad, but dangerous way: my happiness, or my hapless Rosa's, you cannot restore. From you we crave no boon, but a liberty of indulging the sorrows you have occasioned, undisturbed by further insult. Beware, my Lord, how you further pursue it, for though my arm is old and feeble, I have a boy, who yet may return to his native country, to revenge the dishonour of my poor girl. Your Lordship need not trouble yourself to send any more letters as they will remain unanswered.

Charles Davenant."

Such was the letter sent by Mr. Davenant to Lord Loughshiel; and anxious to preserve Rosa from the knowledge, that she had been further insulted, he hastened to assist in preparations for their departure. A very short space saw them settled in their new habitation, where Rosa assumed the name of Mrs. St. Clair, and passed for the widow of an officer who had been killed abroad, and here it was our heroine was born, whom we shall also call Rosa. It would be equally tedious and unnecessary to dwell on the period of her infancy, to say how much superior she was in smartness to other children of the same age, or how often the fond grand-father forgot in the little prattler's endearments, the error which had occasioned her birth. We will only say that by the curate's and her mother's care, she became as she grew up, a most excellent English scholar; that she was rather handsome than otherwise, and that her figure was tall and elegant, as a heroine's should be. In this interval of quietness many letters had arrived from Rosa's uncle, in India. The last reached them a few days before she had completed her sixteenth year. It stated that he every day became more and more a favourite with the elder Mr. Davenant, who had declared his intention of making him sole heir to the immense property he possessed. That he was now almost in a state of second childhood, and had given over all intention of visiting his native country, and that he (the younger Davenant) only waited for his decease to return to England where, in the bosom of his family, rested all his hopes and wishes. He regretted his inability to remit any money to his father, as so far from allowing him a profusion of pocket-money, the nearer his uncle approached to death, the more parsimonious he became.

The contents of this letter gave sincere pleasure to Mr. Davenant. The good old man was far gone in years, and had been long declining; and his only prospect now in life, consisted in the wish of placing Mrs. St. Clair and Rosa under his son's protection. The younger Mr. Davenant, equally with Rosa, was unacquainted with his sister's peculiar misfortunes. He thought her merely the widow of an officer, as represented. To explain these circumstances, and obtain for his young Rosa a guardian, was the curate's desire. But, alas! it was not a task permitted to him. The tyrant death claimed his own, and a few days after the receipt of his son's letter, the good old man, without feeling any particular pain, quietly sunk into his arms. Rosa's sorrow was unbounded, Mrs. St. Clair also wept her father, with heartfelt anguish. But this, she felt, was not a season for supineness. They had now, with but very slender means to seek a new home, as it was natural to suppose, an incumbent would be immediately provided to fill the curacy. Inexperienced in

the world, and friendless, they had few resources for exertion. The trifling annuity of Mr. Davenant had hitherto with the most rigid economy supported them, and little remained to dispose of but the furniture of the cottage.

The prospect was truly dreary, but hope still visited them, in the form of Edward Davenant, and they looked forward to his arrival, as the termination of misfortune. In the interim, however, it was necessary to strike out some plan of subsistence; as it would be at least far advanced in the ensuing season, ere Edward could arrive. Many schemes were started, and disapproved of. At length Mrs. St. Clair determined to take cheap lodgings in London, where she could not fail of hearing of East India arrivals, and to endeavour for a support, by taking in work from the milliners, for herself and Rosa. The furniture was disposed of by auction, for the paltry pittance of forty pounds; and a hackney chaise being procured from a neighbouring town, our dejected travellers, with this, their little all, took leave of the peaceful village, and unfriended and unknown, entered the vast and busy metropolis. Though highly amused by the constant succession of different faces, Rosa was almost stunned, by the confusion and noise. At the inn where they were obliged to sleep, Mrs. St. Clair inquired if they could recommend her to any decent reputable lodging? Some of the saucy domestics stared with impertinent curiosity, others laughed, while a third, pertly sneering, repeated the word reputable! The landlady, however, mentioned several, which she said Will. their *shay-boy knowed* very well, and would drive them to in the morning. Accordingly, after but an indifferent night's rest, having settled their bill at the inn, a hackney coach again dragged them and their baggage through the bustling streets of the city, without obtaining what they wanted. Some were quite too high in their terms, for the state of Mrs. St. Claire's finances; others refused to take them without a proper recommendation, and others again appeared by their contemptuous looks, by no means ambitious of receiving hackney-coach lodgers.

Almost despairing, Mrs. St. Clair was on the point of desiring the man to return to the inn, when a paper put up at the window of a neat looking house, with "lodging to let," attracted her attention. She desired the driver to stop, and a woman appeared, who, though by no means very prepossessing, yet answered them civilly. She said, "she had two very good rooms to let, and that they were three-half-guineas a week." These terms were more reasonable than any Mrs. St. Clair had yet met with; yet, still she knew they were too expensive for her means, but as she saw no prospect of bettering herself at present, she, on viewing the rooms, and finding them tolerable, agreed with the woman at her own price, and her baggage being conveyed in, dismissed the chaise, when completely fatigued, her and Rosa took possession of their apartments. After having partaken of some refreshment they had ordered, Mrs. St. Clair sat down to calculate the amount of their two days expenses, and pulling out her purse, found that her bill at the inn had no little diminished its contents, and every moment convinced them of the necessity of gaining employment. Rosa rung the bell, and the woman appearing, Mrs. St. Clair, in tremulous accents, inquired if she knew of any place where fancy or plain work, which she would ensure to be well and quickly performed, could be procured? Mrs. Woodly looked at once suprised and displeased and sulkily muttered, "if they had no other dependance than that, she was afraid her lodgings would not answer them!"

"When we are unable to discharge our lodgings," returned Mrs. St. Clair, with a look of dignity which sunk her into insignificance, "it will be time sufficient for you to animadvert on a subject, which till then cannot concern you!" We cannot take upon us to say, whether the manner Mrs. St. Clair answered, had any effect, or whether her purse, which she had laid on the table, with a view of the guineas shining through the silk netting, had softened her landlady's temper, but she hastily replied,

"To be sure Ma'am, 'tis none of my business, every one has a right to do as they please, and to be sartain

if Miss and you *chuses* to amuse yourselves, why should'nt you? and as you were *axing*, if I *knowied* of any such thing as work to be got, why I don't think but I can put you in the way of it, for d'ye see, Ma'am, I have a niece, the child of my poor dead brother, whom I was as fond of, as if she was my own a hundred times, and after I gave her good *larnings*, I was advised to put her *prentice* to a milliner, where she still is. They have more work often than they can do, and *is* almost constantly obliged to give out; and——"

Here Mrs. St. Clair, though surprised by the alteration in the woman's manner, hastily interrupted her, by desiring her to send for the girl early in the morning. To this Mrs. Woodly, now all complaisance, gave an immediate acquiescence; but they found themselves, on her arrival, under the disagreeable necessity of waiting on her mistress, who after some time, pleased by their appearance, agreed to give them constant work, provided they came for it, and brought it home. This was the most unpleasant part of the business, but they had no alternative.

Day after day now passed on in unvarying sameness. Morning and evening beheld them employed in the closest industry. But, alas! though they imagined they had learned the science of economy in the country, they had not studied how much more they required of it in London, and every month diminished (independent of their earnings) their little stock, yet barely procured them the necessaries of life. Despair sunk deep into the heart of Mrs. St. Clair, and undermined her health. Rosa too, unaccustomed to a sedentary life, drooped, and as the anguished mother often gazed on her, and felt by her own inward sufferings, she would not long be spared as her guide, she fervently prayed that the Almighty would take her also, rather than she should remain exposed to the evils which might assail her! Alas! hapless Rosa, not so blest was thy fate! Every week now added to the dreariness of their prospect. Mrs. St. Clair grew daily worse, and was now utterly unable to work. In vain Rosa toiled, and endeavoured to conceal the worst from her mother. The small sum they brought with them, was exhausted, and her industry alone was insufficient to afford the latter those comforts her situation required. They had fortunately paid Mrs. Woodly, who beheld them with a strict eye, in advance. But term-time was now approaching, and it would be madness in their present situation, to retain such expensive lodgings. Rosa therefore, by her mother's desire, spoke to a young girl who had attended them since their arrival, and who, grateful for the instructions in many little points, her young mistress had afforded her, she thought would exert herself to obtain cheaper accommodations for them.

"Get them my dear Lucy," said Rosa, with a deep sigh, "as reasonable as possible; if you can but obtain a shelter, and a dry room for my mother, it is all will be required."

Lucy burst into tears. "Ah! ma'am, if I thought"—"If you thought what?" interrupted Rosa, hastily. "Why, if I thought you could put up with such accommodations, my mother has a room....but then it is so poor, and humble; so unfit for such as you; and it is in such a dark dirty lane."

"My good girl!" again interposed Rosa, "it is not slight inconveniences must deter us from removing hence. Our circumstances will not admit a longer stay. Were it not for my poor mother" she added, snatching a glance of agony at the pallid countenance of Mrs. St. Clair, as she slept, "I would not much regret our removal; as your mistress often looks so fiercely on me, that I find it impossible to preserve myself from terror."

"Ah ma'am! she is a hard-hearted wretch," returned Lucy, "I am sure few blessings sweeten her morsel."

"Perhaps we mistake her character," replied Rosa; "but there is no time now to be lost: hasten therefore, to arrange matters with your mother, if she will receive us."

Lucy disappeared; and on her return, it was settled, that they should immediately remove to her mother's, who was to allow them the only unoccupied room in the house, for 8*s*. 8*d*. per week. Mrs. Woodly received their warning with a smile of malignant triumph, and muttered, as she

turned away, "that it was well people, though they were so haughty, could not always ride their high horse." The weakness of Mrs. St. Clair was now so excessive, that Rosa was doubtful, if she could even bear the motion of a carriage; she therefore ordered a sedan chair, and leaning on Lucy's arm, who carried their small wardrobe in a bundle, sick at heart, she tottered after on foot. With ill health, Mrs. St. Clair naturally became splenetic and delicate in her appetite. Devoured by an ever varying sickness, she forgot in her sufferings, the necessity of frugality, and thought she should have every comfort her situation required. When carried up a pair of dark winding stairs, into the room allotted them, she looked around her with a shudder of discontent; while Rosa, totally overcome with fatigue and misery, sunk upon a chair, and burst into tears. She was herself by no means the healthy girl she had been when she came to London. Constant sitting and bad air had made a considerable alteration for the worse; and as she gazed on the feeble form of her mother, and the miserable accommodations she was obliged to put up with, she almost wished to close her eyes for ever, on a prospect which presented nothing but despair and misery.

Lucy had said the room was mean and humble. It was in fact little less than a garret, situated in a lane so confined, that from the windows you might with ease converse with those on the opposite side. From a contemplation of these evils, she was roused, by Lucy reminding her that the chairmen were to pay, and when she had discharged this necessary debt, Rosa, with a heart-broken sigh, found her remaining property consisted of only two solitary guineas. She had, however, the day before she left Mrs. Woodly's, obtained a quantity of shirts to make for her employer; she strove to exert herself, and hoped for the best. Lucy now introduced her mother, a decent looking old woman, though the picture of meagre poverty. She addressed them in her own country dialect (broad Scotch) and assured the bonie ladies, "they might be sure she'd doo a' things to mak them comfortable" and Lucy, wishing them a tearful good-night, returned to her mistress.

Eight or ten days now passed, on Mrs. St. Clair's part, in sufferings, which seemed to impair every faculty, on Rosa's, in the closest industry, and attention to her mother. Her small purse was almost wholly exhausted in the purchase of little delicacies for the poor invalid, which perhaps, when obtained, her sickly appetite refused; and Rosa, with agony, saw her last half crown expended on a jelly, which after a few mouthfuls she could not taste. The shirts were, however, nearly completed, and Rosa determined to work all night, that she might convey them home the next day. Mrs. St. Clair, on the following morning was restless and peevish, and expressed a strong desire for some chicken soupe Rosa heard her with unutterable anguish, for she had not the means of procuring it, and it was the first wish she had yet been obliged to deny her.

With a heart bursting with conflicting emotions, she endeavoured to soothe her with a promise that she should obtain it at night. But the invalid still continued fretful, until the after part of the day, when she sunk into a disturbed but heavy sleep. Rosa's work was completed, and the present, the only moment she could snatch to take it home. She had often been at the milliner's, but Lucy generally accompanied her, and they went in the early part of the day; now it was advanced in the evening and she was alone. She had almost determined to give up her intention till the morning, when a deep groan from her mother seemed to reproach her with selfishness; and snatching Mrs. St. Clair's feeble hand to her lips, she wrapped herself in a long cloak to conceal as much as possible her figure, and with her bundle in her hand, tottered towards the room door, but again she turned to weep and gaze upon her mother! She imagined her countenance looked unusually ghastly. Her spirits felt heavily depressed, and she almost thought that look would be the last she would ever give. On descending the stairs she met Janet

at the foot, bustling to know "how the guid Madam fan hersel?" and terrified at the idea of entering the streets alone, she asked the good creature to accompany her.

"Troth that I will, an welcome," returned Janet, "though the guid God kens, I wad e'en be o' sma' sarvice, gin onie ane sud meddle to hairm ye!"

To be continued in our next.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the course of my reading, I lately met with the following maxims, extracted from a late French publication, entitled Maxims and Reflections on different subjects, both moral and political, by M. de L***. They appear to be founded on an enlightened experience. A READER.

MAXIMS.

1. Treat Fortune as you would do a bad soil: do not disdain the harvest, however small it may prove.

2. The events foreseen by intelligent minds generally occur: but fortune always reserves two secrets, the epoch and the means.

3. Attracted by novelty, but still the slave of habit, man spends his life in desiring change, and at the same time he is continually sighing after repose.

4. *Ennui* is a malady for which labour is the remedy: pleasure is merely a palliative.

5. Baseness always endeavours to degrade that, which on the part of men is the most noble to confer, and the most pleasant to receive....well-merited praise.

6. Your greatest enemy is not always he to whom you may have done an ill office, for he may be generous: but if you have been offended by a coward, be assured that he will ever attempt your destruction, for he is afraid of your resentment, and fear never pardons.

7. Virtue is the triumph of generosity over interest.

8. Honour is the offspring of courage and of vanity.

9. Listen to counsel and brave criticism.

10. The great difficulty in education consists in keeping children under due submission, without at the same time degrading their characters.

11. The spirit of domination is first disclosed in early infancy, it diminishes during youth, and never returns during old age, but along with its other weaknesses.

12. The self-love of fools is an excuse, but not a justification for that of men of sense.

13. When by any accident, flattery does not succeed, it is not its fault, but that of the flatterer.

14. The pride of men of birth would be the most foolish and insupportable species of vanity, were it not for the pride of upstarts.

15. My good friends, are you sure that ten years hence you will be able to recollect the names of all your present friends?

16. Fear and hope divide life; pleasure and sorrow occupy but a few moments of it.

17. What inconsistency! men are conducted even to death through fear.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

READING the travels of Mr. Townsend, in Spain, the other day, the following passage struck me as forcibly applying to, and as clearly throwing light on the affairs of this country, as well as containing valuable hints on education, that I have copied it out, and send it for insertion to your very useful publication. I leave your readers to make their own comment, and I request them not to do so, without previous and dispassionate reflection. I am your humble servant, EUMENES.

"When I directed my course towards Salamanca, it was with a view of paying a visit by appointment to the Marquis of Oviedo; but unfortunately for me, when I arrived, I found he was detained by illness at Madrid; this disappointment was the more vexatious because I had no letters, nor any prospect of being introduced. I ventured however to present myself to Doctor Curtis, President of the Irish College, who received me with politeness, took me under his protection, and during my ten days abode at Salamanca considered me as part of his family (the situation is then described, and Mr. T. goes on) The church is in common to both

establishments, and is built upon such a plan as must do credit to the taste, as well as to the wealth of the disgraced community (the Jesuits.) In the Irish College, three score Students are received at a time, and when these are sent back to Ireland, the same number from thence are admitted, to be, like them, trained up for the ministry; their course of education requires eight years. They are expected to come well founded in the languages, and of the time allowed to them in Spain, four years are given up to philosophy, the remainder to divinity. The mode of giving lectures is perhaps peculiar to themselves, but worthy to be followed in our universities. The Students have questions proposed for their discussion twice every day, and on these they are informed what books to read; then supposing the subject to admit of a dispute, it is carried on by two of them, under the direction of a Moderator, who gives assistance, when it is wanted, and guides them to the truth; where this mode of proceeding is not admissible, the Tutors, instead of giving formal lessons, employ themselves in the examination of their Pupils, and the business of instruction is thus greatly expedited. Dr. Curtis lives with his pupils, like a father with his children, and although in a state of *banishment*, seems happy in the discharge of his important functions. It is however much to be lamented, that he and they should be reduced to the necessity of seeking that protection in a foreign, distant country, to which they are entitled in their own; this kind of persecution is neither just, nor politic; it is certain that ignorance and bigotry have a strong connection.

Would you overcome inveterate prejudices? and are you anxious to banish superstition? let in the light; would you conciliate the affections of those who differ from you in their religious creed? no longer persecute: embrace them, and from enemies, they will become your friends; let in the light, and difference of opinion dies away; Catholics in the more enlightened countries, are no longer papists; their whole system is going to decay; and without claiming more than common sagacity, we may venture to foretel, that in proportion as the limits of toleration shall be extended, all that cannot bear the light will gradually vanish, till the distinction between Catholic and Protestant shall cease. To hasten this event, the education of Catholics in Ireland for the purpose of the ministry, should not only be connived at, but should meet with all possible encouragement."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the present scarcity of flax-seed it looks as if Hemp could in some cases be substituted in the manufacture of the coarser fabrics, instead of Flax. Last year the Linen-board published a pamphlet on the subject, and as in the present crisis, it has become of still greater importance, we hope some active measures will be speedily adopted by the Board to encourage the sowing of Hemp, and the manufacture of it into linen. In the mean time to give our aid to promote the publicity of the plan, we annex the fore part of their advertisement of last year, and give an Extract from the general view of the agriculture of the County of Suffolk, abridged from their pamphlet. In our next number we expect to resume the subject.

CULTURE OF HEMP.

Linen board, March 1, 1808.

THE soil best calculated for raising hemp, is rich, loamy land, or bog thoroughly drained, well manured, and covered with lime-stone gravel, clay, or sand; but any soil that is moderately good, and in a proper tilth, will answer beneficially. A crop of potatoes in the year preceding, or rape, or turnips in the year in which the hemp-seed is to be sown, will be found a good preparation. A hemp crop will be found in general to prepare well for wheat.

The time of sowing is from February to the end of April. If the season permits, the farmer should not defer the sowing longer; but, like flax, it may be sown as late as the middle of May. Care should be taken to keep the birds off the land, till the seed vegetates.

The time of pulling is about fifteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow, and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity for that purpose.

There are two kinds of hemp, male and female. The male is distinguished by a small yellow flower on its head, almost as fine in its nature as dust, which, when ripe, is blown over the field, impregnating the female plants which bear the seed. The distinction of the sex or species may also be known by the different size of the stalk, the female being the grosser of the two. Both kinds may be pulled together, but if it be the intention of the farmer to save the seed, the female hemp, on account of its bearing the seed, must be permitted to remain longer.

MANAGEMENT.

The crop when pulled is to be water-rotted and set up in stooks or spread on the grass, in the same manner, and for the same time, as flax; the time varying of course, as in the case of flax, with the state of the weather. The female plants pulled late, should be stooked in small bundles in the field, after pulling, for a few days, so as that the seed may harden, and thereby separate easy in the thrashing or ripling; the latter of which is to be preferred, because the stem suffers less in the process.

EXTRACT FROM THE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF SUFFOLK.

The district of country in which this article of cultivation is chiefly found, extends from Eye to Beccles, spreading to the breadth of about ten miles, which oblong of country may be considered as its head-quarters.

It is in the hands of both farmers and cottagers; but it is very rare to see more than five or six acres in the occupation of any one man. With cottagers, the more common method is, to sow it every year on the same land: there is a piece at Hoxne, which has been under this crop for seventy successive years. The soil preferred is, what is called in the district, *mixed land*, that is, sandy loam, moist and putrid, but without being stiff or tenacious; in one word, the best land the country contains; and does well, as may be supposed, on old meadow, and low bottoms near rivers. They manure for it with great attention; so that it may be taken as a maxim, that hemp is not often sown without this preparation: of dung and moulds, twenty-five three-horse loads per acre; of dung alone, sixteen loads. This is done directly after wheat sowing is finished.

The tillage consists in three earths, with harrowing sufficient to make the soil perfectly fine; and it is laid flat, with as few furrows as possible.

Time of sowing: from the middle to the end of April; but will bear being sown all May. It is often found that the early sown, yields hemp of the best quality.

Quantity of seed: eleven pecks per acre, at the price of one shilling to two shillings a peck, generally from sixteen to eighteen pence. Much is brought from Downham, and the fens; the seeded hemp is not so good by eighteen pence or two shillings the stone.

No weeding is ever given to it, the hemp destroying every other plant.

It is pulled thirteen or fourteen weeks after sowing; the wetter the season the longer it stands; and it bears a dry year better than a wet one; they make no distinction in pulling between the male and female; or femble and seed hemp, as denominated in some places. In the Cambridgeshire fens they are frequently separated, which may arise from their hemp being coarser, and the stalk larger. The price of pulling is one shilling a peck of the seed sown, or eleven shillings an acre, and beer; but if it comes in harvest, the expence is higher. It is tied up in small bundles, called *baits*.

It is always water-*retted*;* clay pits preferred to any running water,

* Generally; but in a circle, of about six miles round Thiltenham, the greater part is never put into the water at all, but is dew-retted which is done by laying it on pasture ground, for, from three to six weeks, according to the season, and turned five or six times. This process costs about one shilling per stone, per acre, including pulling, spreading, turning, and getting up: and the hemp at market is not worth so much by two shillings per stone, as that which hath been water-retted, and therefore probably the custom of dew-retting is only followed to any considerable degree where there are not pits sufficient to water-ret what grows in a district.

and cleaned out once in seven or eight years. An acre of three small waggon loads are laid in one *bed*. They will water five times in the same hole; but it is thought by some too much. If necessary to wait, they pull as the hole is ready, not choosing to leave it on the land after being pulled.

It is generally four days in the water, if the weather is warm, if not, five; but they examine and judge by feeling it. The expence is twelve to fifteen shillings an acre.

The grassing requires about five weeks; and if there are showers, constantly turned thrice a week; if not, twice a week. This is always on grass land or layers. It is done by women; the expence ten shillings an acre. It is then tied up in large bundles of eight or ten *baits*, and carted home to a barn or house to break directly.

Breaking is done by the stone, at one shilling. There are many people in the district who do it, and earn fifteen or sixteen pence a day, and beer. The offal, called hemp *sheaves*, makes good fuel and sells at two-pence per stone.

It is then marketable, and sold by sample at Dis, Harling, Bungay, &c. price 5s. 6d. to 8s. a stone; generally 7s. 6d. In 1795, 10s. In 1801, 11s.

The buyer heckles it, which is done at 1s. 6d. a stone; he makes it into two or three sorts, *long strike*, *short strike*, and *pull tow*. Women buy it and spin it into yarn, which they carry to market, and sell at prices proportioned to the fineness. This the weaver buys, who converts it into cloth, which is sold at market also. The spinners earn better and more steady wages than by wool: a common hand will do two skeins a day, three of which are a clue, at nine-pence; consequently she earns sixpence a day; and will look to her family and do half a clue.

The fabrics wrought in this county from their own hemp, have great merit. They make it to 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. a yard, yard wide, for shirts; and I was shown sheets and table linen, now quite good, after twenty years wear. Huckabacks for table linen, 13d. to 7s. a yard, ell wide.

The produce of an acre may, on an average, be reckoned forty-five stone, at 7s. 6d. Some crops rise to fifty-five, and even more; and there are bad ones so low as twenty-five. If sold on the ground as it stands, generally one shilling a rod, or 8l. an acre.

The common method is to sow turnips on the land immediately after the hemp is cleared: this is for producing, among the little occupiers, some food for a cow and the family. With good management, one ploughing and one hoeing will carry them to the value of 30s. But an evil arising from the practice is, that the land must for the next crop, be mucked in the spring, when carting does more damage. When grain is sown after the hemp, it is wheat; and these are the best crops in the country, as nothing is esteemed to clean land like this plant. After the wheat, barley, or oats; and this great also.

Finding the profit so great, I demanded why the culture did not increase rapidly? I was answered that its coming in the midst of harvest was embarrassing, and that the attention it demanded in every stage of its progress was great; being liable to be spoiled if the utmost care was not perpetual.

It is considered, and with great justice, throughout the district, to be of infinite consequence to the country; and especially to the poor, who are entirely supported by it, and are now earning six-pence a day by spinning, with more ease than three-pence is gained on the other side of the county by wool.

The culture has increased considerably in the last ten years.

A manufacturer at Stowmarket, thus communicates to me on this subject, from whose account it appears that there are variations:—"Hemp may be grown with success, on the same land, many years, by manuring annually. The quantity of seed usually sown is from nine to twelve pecks per acre; varying with the strength of the soil, and the custom of the country. In those places where the finest and best hemps are grown, twelve pecks is a common quantity.

"The soil and season make a very

material difference in the produce and quality. An acre will produce from 25 to 60 stone; an average crop may be estimated about 36 or 38.

"Hemp, when left for seed, is seldom water-retted, from the additional trouble and expense; but I am of opinion, it would be better if so done. It is generally stacked and covered during the winter, and is spread upon meadow-land in January or February. If the season suits (particularly if covered with snow) it will come to a good colour, and make strong coarse cloths. It is much inferior to hemp pulled in proper time and water-retted.

"The custom of some places is to dew-ret their hemp; that is to spread it on meadow-land as soon as pulled, and turned frequently; but this is a very bad method of retting it; the bark will not come off completely—it therefore requires more violent means of bleaching the yarn, and consequently diminishes the strength. It is likewise much sooner injured in rainy seasons than hemp water retted: water-retting is performed by binding the hemp in small bunches, with the under-hemp, when pulled, and as soon as may be placed in rows crossing each other in the water, and immersed. Stagnant water is deemed the best: it requires four, five, or six days steeping, till the outside coat easily rubs off, and is then spread on meadow land, and turned frequently until finished. The same water will not be proper for receiving hemp more than three times in a season, and the first water always produces the best colour, in the least time.

"But I do not pretend to give exact directions for managing hemp; it can only be acquired by practice. When the hemp is retted, it is bound up in sheaves or large bunches, and with a machine called a brake, the cambuck is broken in pieces, and with a swingle is cleared from the small remaining pieces of the cambuck, and then bound up in stones. In Suffolk 14½ pounds of hemp are deemed a stone. The hemp which breaks off in the operation, and called shorts, is bound up by itself, and is about half the value of the long hemp.

"The price of breaking hemp varies with the length, and the ease or difficulty with which the cambuck separates from it: from 12d. to 18 or 20d. is paid; 12d. and 14d. are the common prices. The refuse is only fit for burning, and is sold from one penny to two-pence per sack.

"I have been informed that there are mills erected for breaking flax; and as the mode of breaking is similar, I imagine they might be applied to hemp.

"When the hemp is broken it is fit for market, and is purchased by hecklers. Dis, Harleston, and Halesworth, are considerable markets for hemp; but the greatest quantity is sold to neighbouring hecklers, without carrying to market.

"The prices vary very much: dew-ret hemp sells from 1s. to 18d. or 2s. lower than water-ret. The present price of the best water-ret is about 8. 6d. per stone: this price is very high. Dew-ret hemp is proper for coarse yarns only: and if that were made from water-retted hemp, it would be stronger and of a better colour.

"The first operation of the heckler, is bunching or beating the hemp; this was formerly, and is still, in some places, done by hand; but in Suffolk, is now always done by a mill, which lifts up two, and sometimes three heavy beaters alternately, that play upon the hemp, while it is turned round by a man or boy to receive the beating regularly. This mill is sometimes wrought by a horse, and sometimes by water; but I think a machine might be contrived to save the expense of either. In this I may be mistaken.

"The time requisite for beating the hemp, varies according to the quality of it, and the purposes it is intended for; the finer the tow is intended to be, the more beating the hemp requires. When bunched it is dressed or combed by drawing it through heckles, resembling wool-comber's tools, only fixed. The prices paid the heckler vary in different places, and with the different degrees of fineness to which it is dressed, from three farthings to two-pence per pound is paid; and the earnings are from 15d. or 16d. to 2s. per day.

"In the hemp trade there are no fixed rules for combing, as in the wool trade. The same hemp is dressed finer or coarser, to suit the demands of the purchasers. It is sometimes divided into two or three sorts of tow, and sometimes the whole is worked together for one sort.—The prices of tow vary, from about 6d. to 18d. per pound.

"The heckler either sells the tow to spinners and to weavers, or puts it out to spin himself, and sells the yarn to the weavers. The prices of spinning vary with the fineness of the yarn:

1 clue from a pound is worth	*d.*	*d.*
spinning, about . . .	7	or 6½
1½ clue from a pound, ...	8½	or 8
2 clues from a pound, . . .	9½	or 9
2½ clues from a pound, . . .	10½	or 10
3 clues from a pound, . . .	12	0

"The spinners who buy the tow, sell their yarn to neighbouring weavers, or at the nearest market. The yarn is reeled in many places:—2 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads, 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 3 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards: in others—3 yards, 1 thread; 40 threads 1 lea; 20 leas, 1 skein; 2 skeins, 1 clue, 4800 yards. The former is the most convenient method for the bleacher and weaver.

"Weavers, in general, purchase their yarn from spinners in the neighbourhood, or at markets, and deliver it to the white-ter, as he is commonly called, who returns it, bleached, to the weaver; receiving 20 or 21 for bleaching 120 clues.

"Bleaching the yarn is performed by laying it in large tubs, covered with thick cloths, upon which ashes are placed; and pouring hot water daily through it, turning the yarn frequently, until the bark comes off. It is then rendered whiter, by spreading it on poles in the air. This is a difficult part of the business; the art consisting in procuring the best colour with the least diminution of strength.

"Weaving is, in general, conducted in the manner I have stated: that is, by purchasing the yarn at market, and after bleaching, making it into cloth of various degrees of fineness and breadth. The breadths are half-ell: three quarters wide; three quarters and a nail; seven-eighths and yard-wide sheeting; yard-wide; seven yards one-eighth wide; and ell-wide. Prices from 10d. per yard, half-ell-wide, to 4s. or 4s. 6d. ell-wide.

"Exceeding good huckaback is also made from hemp for towels and common table-cloths. The low priced hemps are a general wear for husbandmen, servants, and labouring manufacturers; the sorts from 18d. to 2s. per yard, are the usual wear of farmers and tradesmen; the finer sorts, seven-eighths wide, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per yard, are preferred by many gentlemen, for strength and warmth, to other linen.

"The largest quantity of hemp is sold as it comes from the loom, and bleached by the purchasers; but some quantity is bleached, ready for weaving, either by the weaver or by a whitester: this is done by boiling it in lye (made from ashes) and frequently spreading it on the grass till it is white.

"Many weavers vend their cloths entirely by retail, in their neighbourhood; others to shopkeepers, principally in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and in part of Essex; and others at Dis, where there is a hall for the sale of hemp cloth, once a week; and at Norwich, where there is a street occupied by weavers, from different parts of the country, who have shops in it.

"The earnings of the journeyman weaver vary considerably, from the season; frosty, windy, and very dry weather being unfavourable; and they vary also, from the great difference in skill, and the quality of the materials to work upon: they may earn from about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day; in extra cases, more.

"I think, Sir, you will perceive, from the statement I have given of the manner in which the hemp trade is conducted, the difficulty of ascertaining with any certainty, the profits arising from an acre of hemp converted into cloth

"The hemp manufacture cannot rival that of flax, in fineness; nor is it desirable:—in colour it is by no means deficient, and possesses this advantage over Irish and all other linens, that its colour improves in wearing, while theirs declines. But the article is

which English hemp, properly manufactured stands unrivalled, is the strength;—flax will not bear the least comparison with it, in this respect; and I can assert, from experience, that it is far superior in strength to Russian—the strongest known hemp next to the English.

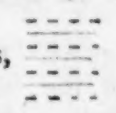
"The necessity of keeping up the quality of the cloths, should be strongly impressed on the weavers; perhaps if premiums were given for the best manufactured hemp cloths, it might be serviceable under proper regulations. I think the public would be found very much disposed to encourage a strong manufacture of cloth; and there are facts which induce me to think so.

"Considerable quantities of Russian sheeting are sold in England, merely for their strength; as they are coarser at the price than any other foreign linen.

"Suffolk hemp if known, would always be preferred, being stronger than Russian, from the quality of the thread, and at the same time, lighter in washing; which is often an objection to Russian.

"You inquire if Suffolk hemp is used for ropes? I believe, never. It is too fine and dear, and sacking is principally made from Russian Hemp, although the offal of English is sometimes used."

The Rev. Mr. Mills, of Bury, also writes thus:—"Hemp delights in a black, rich mould, the richer and stronger it is the better. It has sometimes been sown upon the breaking up of an old lay, and where there has been sufficient depth, with success. Let the land be well worked and manured with 30 loads per acre, about a fortnight before seed-time, which is from the beginning to the end of April: if sown earlier, as the plants are almost as tender as French beans, the frosts would greatly injure, if not totally destroy them; the sooner (the season permitting) it is sown the better, though it has been sometimes deferred till the 15th of May. Three bushels and a half of good bright seed are sufficient for an acre, which should be gently and lightly harrowed in—the birds must be kept off the land till the plants appear; the time of pulling is about the beginning of August, or more properly speaking, thirteen weeks from the time of sowing: the leaves turning yellow and the stalks white, are signs of its maturity; the male and female hemp are pulled together: indeed, when the crop is thick, it is impossible to separate them. The expense of pulling is generally estimated at one shilling per peck, according to the quantity originally sown.

"When it is all taken up and bound in small bundles, with bands at each end, to such a bigness as you can grasp with both hands, it is conveyed to the pond of standing water (if a clay-pit, the better) where it is laid bundle upon bundle, direct and across thus,  this is termed a bed of hemp, and after it is piled to such a thickness as to answer the depth of the water (which cannot be too deep)* it is loaded with blocks and logs of wood, until all of it is totally immersed: after remaining in this state four or five days, as the weather shall direct, it is taken out and carried to a field of aftermath, or any other grass that is clean and free from cattle; the bundles being untied, it is spread out thin, stalk by stalk; in this state it must be turned every other day, especially in moist weather, lest the worms should injure it; thus it remains for six weeks or more; then it is gathered together, tied in large bundles, and kept dry† in a house till December or January, when the stalks are broken and the bark wholly freed from them, by an instrument called a breaker. The art of breaking it, by a labourer of common capacity, would be learned in a few hours, and the swingling of it, which follows, requiring some sleight as well as labour, though more difficult, might in

*"This deserves experimental inquiry, watering hemp is a partial rotting, through fermentation; the vicinity of the atmosphere must for that purpose be necessary. The best hemp ponds I have seen, have not exceeded the depth of six feet."

† it might do as well stacked, if kept perfectly dry.

a little longer time be acquired. After breaking and swingling, it is sent to the heckler and hemp dresser, to be prepared for spinning, according to the fineness desired.

"Should the hemp stand for seed, the yarn of it will never be so white, as it is not watered, but only spread on the grass for the benefit of the dews; it will not be improper to observe in this case, after it is tied in bundles it is set up like wheat in shocks, till the seed will freely shed, and then threshed out.

"As you requested, I inquired, if a rich sand would answer for the cultivation of hemp; and whether wheat might be sown after it. Both these questions were answered in the negative.*

The reason assigned against the wheat was, the richness of the land would make it run to straw. Oats is the general crop after hemp.—Turnips sown immediately after it, have answered tolerably well."

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON the arrival of the Belfast Almanack, for the year 1809 at this place, I purchased one, as I generally do, being conscious of the utility of such publications. Celestial phenomena, viz. Solar and Lunar Eclipses, Moon's Phases, &c. were the object of my first perusal, by which I found that on the 29th and 30th days of April next, there will be a Lunar eclipse. A few days ago I was in company with a gentleman who was passing through this town, who had a copy of the *Gentleman's* Almanack. On looking over it, I saw that on the 29th and 30th days of April next there will be a *Solar* eclipse, not a *Lunar*, as stated in the Belfast Almanack. If some of your Astronomical correspondents would be so kind as to let me know if either, or which, of the Almanacks is correct, they would oblige INQUIRER.

Cushendall, February 20, 1809.

* It is common to sow wheat after hemp in various parts of this kingdom, and also in France; and it is reckoned one of the best preparations for that grain; but upon a rich black mould, the observation of this gentleman is probably very just. I have seen very fine hemp on good sands. A. Y.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON receiving your Magazine for January, I was much surprized on seeing such a gross error, as appears in printing my account of Carrickfergus; namely, such a large portion left out entirely. Supposing it to have been lost, I send you the part that is left out, hoping you will insert it in your Magazine for February. S. M. S.

The following should precede the article in p. 24, of last No.

Three miles north of the town, is a large lake of fresh water, called Lough-morn, about a mile and a quarter long, and upwards of half a mile broad; very little water runs into it, but a stream runs out, which turns a cotton mill;* its water is supposed to be formed by a large spring near its centre, as there is no appearance of any near its margin. The water is very pure and is well stored with pike and eels of a large size. Near this has been lately built a Meeting-house, belonging to that sect of Dissenters called Covenanters, or Mountain-men. Two miles West of this lough,† on the top of a hill

* Besides the above-mentioned stream, about a mile from this lough, towards the town, at a place called Sulla-tober is a very large spring of water, which turns a cotton-mill in the driest season; it is supposed to be a part of the water of this lough, which has a subterraneous passage thither.

† Concerning its Origin there is the following absurd tradition: That it was once a large town, when one evening an old man came into it seeking a lodging, and being refused by several people he said "although it was a town then, it would be a lough ere morn." He instantly left the town and retired to an adjacent hill; the people were soon alarmed by the ground shaking, and eels rising about the hearth-stones! when lo! in an instant the town sunk to rise no more; and it has since been called Lough-mor-

called Slieve-true, is one of these cairns of stones which are found in Ireland, and the northern* countries. These stones have no regular form, but are a confused heap; they are commonly believed to be funeral piles of the dead. About a mile N. E. from hence is a cairn similar to the above, called Cairnancade. Adjoining Slieve-true is the Ree-hill where a horse-market and race are held each Christmas-day; the country people resorting hither to taste the pleasures of the turf. The soil here is mostly covered with heath and moss, among which are found the bed-grouse or moor-cock; plover are also found below in the marshes. About two miles from the town, near the road leading to Ballyclare are two very romantic cascades, they are both situated in delightful dells, on the.....

The second part of the description of Carrickfergus was printed verbatim from the copy sent to the publishers, with the exception of two or three words at the beginning, where the connection between the parts was evidently incomplete; the omission which has occurred cannot therefore be imputable to the Magazine, but must have arisen from some part of the Manuscript having been mislaid, or lost in the carriage to Belfast. EDIT.

* Dr. Johnson speaks of some of these cairns in his journey to the Western isles; and concludes they were funeral monuments of the dead. Mr. John Bell (of Antermony) also says; "In the northern extremity of Siberia, about 8 or 10 days journey from Tomsky, there is a plain containing the tombs of several heroes who perished in combat. They may be easily distinguished by heaps of earth and stones with which they are covered." The cairns in this Kingdom are said to have been erected by the Ostmen, or Danes.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM HAWES, M.D.

One of the chief promoters of the Royal Humane Society, for the restoration of suspended respiration, with some account of that benevolent Institution.

IN a warlike age, when the praise of the military hero occupies so much of public attention, both in conversation and writing, it may be useful to step aside and contemplate the characters of the benefactors of mankind, who seek to found their fame on promoting the happiness of their fellow-men, and with a noble enthusiasm, not well understood, nor duly appreciated in this *selfish age*, make good their claims to the truly honourable distinction of the *civic* wreath.

William Hawes was born at Islington, of respectable parents, on November 28th, 1736. After receiving his education at St. Paul's School, he went as an apprentice in the year 1751, to Mr. Corson, an eminent apothecary at Lambeth. On the termination of his apprenticeship he attended with great diligence the lectures given at the hospital, and by the different lecturers of the time. His favourite lecturer was the late Dr. George Fordyce, and on whom he attended for some time after he entered into business, living in his immediate neighbourhood. In 1759 he settled as an apothecary in the Strand; here he practised for many years, with considerable success to his patients and himself.

In the spring of 1774, Mr. Hawes published his "account of the late Dr. Goldsmith's illness, so far as it relates to the exhibition of Dr. James' Powder, together with remarks on the use and abuse of that powerful medicine, in the beginning of acute disease." Dr. Goldsmith was his intimate friend. Mr. Hawes' only motive in this publication appears to have been the wish of being serviceable to others, and to prevent men, if possible, from destroying their own lives by the injudicious use of strong, and, what are called infallible remedies. "If the desire I have (he observes) to warn mankind against the fatal effects produced by the indiscriminate exhibition of various potent medicines has betrayed me into an improper warmth of expression,

I hope to stand excused by the humane and sensible part of the public, when it is considered that the preservation of the lives of my fellow creatures was my principal inducement to it." He acknowledges, however, with the greatest candour, that much good has arisen from the proper and skilful exhibition of Dr. James' Powder, in many cases of fever, but declares that he has also seen several cases in which it has proved highly injurious. In an advertisement to a fourth edition of this account, he remarks, "It is not my disposition to be uncandid, nor my wish to injure the circumstances of any man, but whatsoever, in the form of medicine appears likely to produce a public injury, I am determined to expose. I have made quacks of all denominations my sworn enemies, but what medical man of honour and reputation would wish to be upon tolerable terms with the murderers of the human race?"

It may not be an unsuitable digression in this place, to notice the proneness to credulity, as exemplified in the extensive sale of quack medicines, which, since the days of Dr. Goldsmith, have increased in an astonishing degree. Dr. Goldsmith's death was supposed to be occasioned by taking Dr. James' Powders, a medicine which under judicious administration, has been found to be seviceable, but like all other potent medicines, may prove injurious in unskilful hands. But in later times we have seen men rise to eminence and wealth by the grossest impositions on public credulity. Dr. John Fothergill in his works had to caution against a quack medicine sold under his name, and we still see the imposition continued by advertisements in the news-papers, of Fothergill's Essence of Vipers, with a puff of its virtues, and claiming with evident falsehood, the sanction of his name. Dr. Brodum, of London, and Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool, continue to obtrude their nostrums and to offend the eye of delicacy by their puffing advertisements; the continuance of which, from time to time, prove the extent of their imposition, and the cullibility of the public. Ignorance is the mother of credulity.

A few medical maxims extremely simple, and of easy comprehension, would, if duly considered, remove this prejudice of the public mind, in favour of quack medicines.

Medicines to be really useful, must possess a considerable degree of potency, and if this power is unduly applied, it may produce much mischief. Hence we may see the absurdity of the phrase so often thoughtlessly used, "such an article is simple, if it does no good, it can do no harm." If it really be of this nature, it is probably equally incapable of doing good or harm, but too often it may not prove as innocent as suspected, but possess the power of doing much injury. A second maxim is, that no medicine can be suitable for every disease, combined as diseases frequently are with each other, and diversified as the temperaments and constitutions of mankind are, so that what may be suitable under certain circumstances, may under those of an opposite tendency be totally unfit. But quack medicines are indiscriminately applied to all, and doubtless they produce many hurtful consequences on the constitutions of the dupes, who so thoughtlessly use them.

We now come to notice the commencement of a society, which has been productive of much good, and in which the Doctor eminently and virtuously distinguished himself. It is to be remarked that in 1776 he received his diploma of M. D.

In the year 1767 a Society was instituted at Amsterdam for the recovery of the drowned, in consequence of some instances of recovery which had been happily effected a short time before in Switzerland. Memoirs of this Society were published, and a copy of them brought from Holland by Dr. Cogan; these he translated in 1773, in order to show to the British public the practicability of recovering persons who had hitherto been considered as dead, in consequence of being taken out of the water with every appearance of death. These Memoirs were no sooner translated, than they engaged the benevolent and humane mind of Mr. Hawes. He immediately advertised that he would pay rewards to those who would acquaint him, within a certain time,

of any person who had been drowned in his neighbourhood. This he did till the Society was established in the following year; and certainly he could not have given a more sincere or disinterested proof of his wish to promote so valuable and benevolent an object. In the summer of 1774 an association of thirty gentlemen, one half of whom were the friends of Dr. Cogan, and the other of Mr. Hawes, formed themselves into a society, whose object, like that of Amsterdam, was to promote the recovery of persons who were apparently dead by drowning; and like that society also, their views were at first confined to the recovery of drowned. Other respectable names were soon added to the list; and successful cases began to increase its numbers and reputation. Dr. Cogan during his continuance in England prepared the reports of the society, from year to year; that he did it with judgment, would be unnecessary to say, as he can do nothing but with the hand of a master. During this time Mr. Hawes was most zealously active in promoting the views of the infant Institution; but his wish to promote the welfare and happiness of others was not limited or confined to one point.

In the autumn of 1776, he gave his first course of lectures on suspended animation. The Doctor's object in delivering these lectures was to excite an investigation of the subject in all its branches, and particularly to lead the minds of medical students to it, and to induce them to examine into, and pay the most minute attention to all the received signs of life, in cases of suspended animation, whether from drowning, suffocation by the cord, syncope, inebriation, or trance, from noxious vapours, intense cold, and even lightning. These lectures were continued for several years, and answered the very valuable purpose of turning the attention of many of his hearers to this benevolent, novel and interesting subject. In 1777, the Doctor first published his "Address to the public, on premature death and premature interment." At a considerable expense he distributed seven thousand of his address in the course of a few months. He also offered the reward of one guinea to any nurse or other attendant on any child or grown person returning to life by their humane attention, provided the fact was ascertained by a gentleman of the faculty, or attested by three credible persons. The Doctor asserts, and no one who knew him can doubt it, that his view in incurring such heavy expenses was the hope of exciting an universal attention to the subject of so much importance to mankind. Sometime in the year 1778 a more active post in the management of the affairs of the Humane Society devolved on him, by his being chosen register. This was still increased in the year 1780, when Doctor Cogan returned to Holland. On that event Doctor Hawes greatly regretted the loss of so able a colleague, and laments that the task of arranging and preparing the annual reports of the society should have "fallen into hands of such inferior ability;" but hopes that his zeal will compensate for the want of ability, that the important cause then intrusted to his sole care might not be permitted to languish. Those only who have witnessed the labour and fatigue which the multiplied concerns of the society necessarily impose on him who is intrusted with the entire direction of them, can justly appreciate the value and extent of his unceasing exertions for promoting a cause so near his heart, and with which his own happiness, as well as the happiness of others was interwoven. The Doctor remarks, that soon after this time the execution of the reports of this institution became more complex and intricate. As the instances of resuscitation multiplied, he observes that new and improved modes of treatment suggested themselves to skilful practitioners, and that other species of apparent death than those hitherto treated, were also brought within the reach of art. These circumstances arising from the liberal spirit and unexampled fervour manifested by the medical assistants, in the prosecution of their life saving views, concurring to render the task operose and complicated. But he adds, all these difficulties sunk before the pleasing contemplation of the immense good that would result to mankind from it. In 1781, Doctor Hawes published

"an address to the king and parliament of Great Britain, on preserving the lives of the inhabitants, and on regulating the bills of mortality."

About ten years ago, Dr. Letsom, who had succeeded Mr. Horsfall as treasurer of the Humane Society, resigned, and Dr. Hawes was chosen as his successor. He had previously discharged that part of the treasurer's office which consists in examining into the claims for rewards and paying them. He therefore still continued his laborious exertions for supporting and extending the influence of the institution, which he had fostered with all the attention, assiduity, and interest of a parent

Indeed, a man of less ardour, or zeal, or activity, must have failed in raising to that degree of eminence, which it now possesses, the Humane Society of London. The tide of prejudice, for many years, ran very strong against a set of men who presumed or pretended to bring the dead to life. In other Institutions, the subscribers have the means of affording relief to some sick or distressed neighbours, or have something to dispose of, some good they can personally confer, but in this institution, there is nothing of the kind; which has been an obstacle to its establishment. Its patrons and promoters have, it is true, the Godlike satisfaction of knowing they contribute towards preserving the lives of many of their fellow creatures from premature death. They have a gratification too of a very superior kind, afforded them at the anniversary festival: they see men, women and children, whom they have contributed to rescue from an untimely death, walk in solemn and silent procession, expressing as they pass, their gratitude to God and to their benefactors. This is one of the most interesting and affecting scenes a man of feeling can witness; and it seldom fails to cause the tear of sympathy to steal down the cheeks of the spectators. It certainly required all the energy and undeviating perseverance of Dr. Hawes, to place this institution, in opposition to numerous difficulties, in that state of respectability and permanence in which he has left it, and to which such a cause is justly entitled. To the same zeal for saving the lives of his fellow creatures, must we attribute his uniform attention to the establishment of similar societies in numerous towns of the united kingdom, and in various parts of Europe, America, and India.

The mind of Dr. Hawes was uniformly and ardently employed in the general cause of humanity. His views of beneficence were by no means confined to the object connected with the institution of which he was the zealous advocate, and unwearied promoter. He did not suffer his exertions to abate, because he could not succeed in the first, second, or third attempt; but persevered with uncommon ardour till he could obtain the object he wished to promote for the good of others.

He also published an Examination of Wesley's Primitive Physic, a work full of the grossest absurdities, and the most dangerous remedies, and which were likely to be destructive of the lives of many of those, over whom the name of Wesley had influence. This examination which passed through three large editions, it is believed has been very serviceable in promoting the humane and disinterested views of its author.

Numerous are the instances of his anonymous appeals to the public liberality for the relief of virtuous indigence, or unavoidable misery. In the year 1793, the introduction of the general use of cottons instead of silk, having occasioned, as was to be expected, a want of employment to the weavers of silk in Spitalfields, a great deal of disease, distress and positive want were the consequences. Dr. Hawes in his capacity of Physician to the London Dispensary, witnessed them with real anguish of mind, and lamented his own inability to afford relief. He made several appeals to the public, at length he became happily instrumental in preserving from absolute ruin nearly twelve hundred families. The following letter to a clergyman, is one among a great many, which his humane and benevolent mind dictated on the occasion, and which is inserted here as well to exhibit the benevolent views of the writer, as to show, that notwithstanding the great

wealth of England, misery in a very eminent degree is an inmate in many of the dwellings of the poor; and in London, that great mart of the world, extremes of luxury and wretchedness meet. The miseries and vices of St. Giles, and Spitalfields, are *strongly contrasted* with the luxury, and no less flagrant vices of Bedford-square, and Landsdown place.

"Reverend Sir,

"Permit me to address you, on the present occasion, and to return you my most sincere thanks for your voluntary exertions in behalf of the distressed weavers. Believe, Sir, it is not in the power of language to describe their long and continued miseries; miseries not brought on by idleness, intemperance, or a dissolute course of life; human wretchedness, absolutely produced by want of employment. My profession obliges me daily to be an eye-witness to the severe distresses, trials, and afflictions of these much to be pitied of our fellow creatures, whole families without fire, without raiment, and without food, and to add to the catalogue of human woes, three, four, and five in many families languishing on the bed of sickness. I am sure, Sir, you will believe me when I declare that such scenes of complicated wo are too affecting to dwell upon, and therefore shall conclude with my most earnest wishes, that by your pleading in their behalf, other divines may be animated to the same pious undertaking; I am certain that public benevolence will prevent the premature death of many, will restore health to numbers, and afford the staff of life to thousands of afflicted families. I am, reverend Sir, Your most obedient

Humble servant, W. Hawes.
Physician to the London Dispensary."

Spital Square, Nov. 16, 1793.

No man could be more alive to distress of every kind than Dr. Hawes, and to a great variety of which he was a constant witness in his attendance on the poor, as physician of the London and Surry Dispensaries. In many cases he found them more in want of nourishment than medicine; having told them what was necessary he would afford them the means of procuring this nourishment, and hasten from them to prevent their overwhelming him with their gratitude. Instances, too, have frequently occurred of his overtaking persons in the street, whom he knew to be in great want of his taking his hand from his pocket and putting the means of relief into their hand, and passing quickly on. The instances of his benevolence, humanity, and real charity must have been numerous; for many of those which are known, have been incidentally discovered. It was truly said of him in the Morning Chronicle, a day or two after his death, that he was a man of whom it may with the greatest truth be asserted, that his only failing arose from an overflow of the milk of human kindness; that he was open and unsuspecting as noon-day; that his heart was always in his hand, and his benevolence unbounded; and that the tears and regrets of thousands would follow him to the grave, with the consolatory reflection that he is gone to receive the reward of a well-spent, active, useful, and virtuous life. As a friend he was sincere, and without the least reserve. In him was no guile. To his family he was the affectionate friend, and indulgent father, and by whom he was most deservedly and tenderly beloved. His highest gratification was to see those around him happy, and to contribute by every means in his power to promote their pleasures and comfort. His manners were kind and conciliating; his temper frank, generous, and uncommonly cheerful. On the evening of Sunday, November the 6th, 1808, he was attacked with a very painful disease, which, though the skill and attention of Messrs. Cline and Addington succeeded in mitigating, they could not remove. During this severe illness, his patience, composure, and resignation, were truly exemplary. The activity of his mind continued with him to the last, and to the last moment he was sensible. On Monday morning, December 5, he was at six o'clock, remarking on something that was passing; at a quarter past six, he gently closed his eyes on this life, with a look of affection and tenderness to those of his family who were then surrounding him. He was buried at Islington, on Tuesday December 13. Three mourning coaches, filled with his

relatives, and a few of his most intimate friends attended him to the grave. To these were unexpectedly added, in the square, seven other mourning coaches, filled with those friends who were desirous of thus publickly manifesting their esteem for him, and accompanying him to his last abode in this world. The church was filled, and the sorrow for the loss of such a man was abundantly visible.

To the foregoing account which is partly extracted from the London Monthly Magazine, with additional observations, we subjoin his character as summed up by a correspondent of the Athenæum.

"He was a signal instance of the good that may be done by a man whose heart is set upon it. He was indefatigable in the execution of his designs, and they were always designs of public utility or private beneficence. He employed much time laboriously and usefully which the greater part of mankind spend in sleep. During the whole of his life he was in his study by five o'clock in the morning, and sometimes as early as four. His frame was not robust, but he was upon the whole blessed with good health, it was the reward of exercise and temperance.

In the important affair of resuscitating the apparently dead, it is in the recollection of a few and but few, that he experienced a good deal of opposition and ridicule. Less perseverance and ardour than he possessed, would not have surmounted the difficulties with which he had to contend.

Though the Humane Society was the object of his particular affection and unceasing solicitude, he was not regardless of other charitable Institutions, to most of which (in the metropolis) he was a contributor. But his private benefactions far exceeded those that were public.

The poor of the two Dispensaries to which he was physician, found in him the kindest friend. He frequently discovered that they wanted nourishment rather than medicine and very largely did he relieve their wants. His custom was to order a butcher, baker, or publican, who lived near the patient, to send in meat, bread, or porter, at stated times. By this means he knew that the poor people really had that which would benefit them. Thus did he restore many whom medical science could never have relieved.

To crown all, he was disinterested beyond any man that I ever knew."

More profit may be reaped from the contemplation of such a character, than from reading the lives of the most renowned warriors of antient or modern times. These dazzle with the false glare of ideal honour. The other diffuses a steady light to conduct "the way-worn traveller" to the heights of virtue, and to exhibit human nature in the most amiable point of view. "Go thou and do likewise," is the instructive lesson communicated by the perusal of such a life. Let us cherish the hope that the day will come when the laurels of the warrior will be viewed with abhorrence, but the unassuming wreath of virtuous exertion will bloom with immortal verdure.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY, TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DELEUZE.

Concluded from Page 32, No. VI.

HAVING amassed a considerable collection from Chili, and received the honours he merited, Dombey returned to Lima, with the intention of sailing for Europe. But his great reputation had again excited an envious disposition towards him, and injurious reports had been spread that he carried on an illicit correspondence with the English. And so far did these calumnies prevail, that when he went with his companions to the house of the visitor general, this officer was so much prejudiced against him that he thought proper to receive him with contempt and insult. Dombey, whom no power could frighten, replied in a calm tone, "I would not put up with your insults if I were only a common traveller."—"And what would you have done?"—"I should have already pierced you to the heart; but, as I go to the king of France, to give him an account of your proceedings, and to obtain justice, it behoves me in the mean time to remain quiet." So saying, he left the house. The visitor having been better informed, thought it his duty to endeavour to repair

these wrongs. Accordingly, he sent again for the man he had so unjustly outraged, and in the presence of a large assembly, assured him of the regret his former conduct had occasioned, and of the sincerity of his esteem, begging him to inform the viceroy of the reparation he had thus made him.

During the time Dombey waited the sailing of the vessel, which was to convey him to France, he occupied himself assiduously in putting his collection in order. He packed the whole with the greatest care in seventy-three cases, which cost him 18,000 livres. At this time he was so ill, that he had very little hope of revisiting his native country; but the fear of death affected him much less than the idea that his collection might be lost. He sent to M. Thouin a catalogue of the contents of the cases, requesting that if they should arrive at Cadiz without him, he would procure a commission from the king of France, to go there to receive them. "If the cases," says he, "should be opened in your absence, every thing will be deranged. My manuscripts are in a box by themselves. You will dispose of all for the benefit of my country."—He recovered, however, and sailed with his collection on board the Peruano, commanded by M. J. de Echinque, on the 14th of April 1784. Their voyage was prosperous as far as fifty degrees S.L; but as they approached Cape Horn the wind was contrary, and the sea so boisterous, that the ship was dismantled, and sustained otherwise so much damage, that it took a month to run ten degrees. The crew were overcome with fatigue and benumbed with cold; thirty-two of them had already perished, and seventy-three were on the sick list. It was necessary to repair the ship, and divers were wanting to stop the leaks; but the dejected sailors had not the resolution to submerse themselves under the water in so cold a season. Dombey seeing the general danger offered a premium of 1500 livres to the first who should throw himself into the sea. Animated by the hope of this reward twelve sailors offered themselves. The danger of sinking was now removed, though the ship was still ungovernable; and a breeze springing up from the south, they arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 4th of August. Here they were obliged to remain four months to refit. Dombey, expecting to proceed direct to Europe, was not prepared for this stay, having brought with him no letter of recommendation. His reputation had however preceded him. The fame of what he had done at Huanuco and at La Conception had reached Brazil. The viceroy Vasconcellos, informed of Dombey's arrival, sent a carriage for him, loaded him with marks of distinction, and taking him to his country seat, showed him a fine collection of dried birds, insects, and butterflies, of which the viceroy insisted upon his choosing enough to fill a chest. For this very handsome present, Dombey gave the person who brought it a thousand livres, little suspecting that the whole would be broken to pieces at Cadiz by the inspecting officers.

The rainy season not permitting any long botanical excursions, he collected only about two hundred new plants at Rio Janeiro; but he procured there seeds of a species of Waltheria, of which the inhabitants make very good cordage; butterflies, which still are the most beautiful among those admired in the galleries of the museum; a valuable sapphire; topazes of two colours; and a magnificent aiguemarine, the size of a pigeon's egg, for which he paid 1500 livres.

He took leave of the viceroy at the end of November, 1784, when he again received the most flattering proofs of his esteem, and arrived in the port of Cadiz on the 22d of February 1785. In spite of the extreme delicacy of his health, he was overcome with joy at the near prospect of the moment when he should offer to his country the fruits of his voyage, little suspecting that this would prove the commencement of his misfortunes.

The collection made by MM. Ruiz and Pavon, who had been ordered to remain in America, together with the duplicates which Dombey had designed for the king of Spain, had been embarked on board the San Pedro de Alcantara. The ship separated in the storm, and never reached her destination. The whole collection on

board the Peruano belonged to the king of France, as the captain's receipt acknowledged*. Dombey expected that his collection, being addressed to the minister of foreign affairs in France, would be freed from all visits of the custom-house officers. For, could it be suspected that prohibited articles were contained in the cases, the Spanish Embassador, in Paris, might have been directed to concert with the minister an appointment of some persons to attend the opening of the cases; or, if the inspection at Cadiz could not be dispensed with, at least care should have been taken that the necessary form was gone through without delay, and in such a manner that nothing might be damaged. If such behaviour was proper towards a Naturalist, sent by the king of France, how much more was it due to Dombey, for his conduct in America, where, at the imminent risque of his own, he had saved the life of a multitude of people, during a contagious disease, and had taught the means of curing and preventing this malady, which frequently rages in Chili! He had discovered a mine of quicksilver to supply the place of those that were become less productive than formerly; he had detected new mines of gold and silver, and pointed out the signs by which they might be known, and the best mode of working them advantageously; he had supported the troops against the rebellion of Tapac-Maro; and it had been acknowledged that the preservation of the province of Huanuco was owing to his zeal; he had ceded to Spain duplicates of his plants and of his descriptions, without demanding any thing in exchange; he had never accepted of any remuneration from the Spanish government, and had expended more than 200,000 livres in its service.

In spite of all these considerations, an order was sent for the immediate opening of the whole of the cases. These had been made with great care: they were double; that is to say, each case was enclosed in another, and both cemented together, and covered with skins to keep out insects and moisture. To open them and fasten them up again was a work of time, requiring much address and precaution, especially such as contained brittle subjects: the contents of many of them were, of course, damaged.

In the next place, to repair the loss which his Catholic majesty had sustained, Dombey was required to give up the half of his collection. But, as the separation of what forms in itself a regular series, would of course considerably diminish its value, he refused to comply with this demand. The consent of the court of France was however obtained, and Dombey was under the necessity of submitting. Commissioners were appointed on the part of Spain to attend the division. The arrival of these from Madrid was to be waited for, and in the mean time the cases were stowed in low and damp warehouses, where access to them was denied even to Dombey. Nor could he take out the seeds, though the necessity for sowing them was, on account of the season, very pressing. An offer was made him to fix a value on his collection; but he answered, that, being made for the government of France, he could not possibly set a price upon it, nor would he sell any thing. A part of the things was incontestably his own property; but no respect was paid to this; even the cases packed at Rio Janeiro, belonging to Portugal, which contained the presents made him by the viceroy, were opened.

During all this time Dombey was obliged to remain at Cadiz, without money, without credit, and without resource; and, though treated with contempt, was under the necessity of restraining his indignation. His claims were not heard, and spies were set to watch his conduct. Weary of these vexatious proceedings, he was tempted to renounce every thing, and to go and die in the bosom of his family; a resolution which he was prevented from executing only by the hope of being able to publish the fruit of his labours; but even this consolation was denied him by the jealousy of those at the

* This acknowledgment, which I have now before me, imports that the seventy-three cases, with the collection of Dombey, made *at the expense of the king of France*, were destined for the royal cabinet and garden at Paris.

head of the intrigue against him. An exact copy of his descriptions, and of the historical notes attached to his herbarium, was taken; nor was his own share of the collection given up, or his departure permitted, till he had given a written promise not to publish any thing before his companions should return from America, where they were detained by superior orders. Such an alarm was purposely excited in his breast, that he was induced to write to Paris, to prevent L'Heritier from publishing the descriptions and engravings of some new plants, which had been raised in the gardens from seeds sent by him from Peru. He thought only of saving himself by burying all that had passed in oblivion. Despair seized his mind, and exaggerated the horror of his situation; his memory and his reason became enfeebled, and he was no longer able to struggle against difficulties.

How, alas! did he now regret those beautiful countries where, in a delicious climate he observed and collected the productions of nature; where he found comfort, even in braving the dangers of attending the sick; where he had acquired friends; where, finally, love had prepared for him a new home! But now all was lost. Sometimes reanimated with his wonted energy, he thought if he were to return to Peru alone, he should be able to excite an insurrection there; but immediately repelling with horror the idea of a criminal revenge, he again sunk into a state of dejection.

At last, after a stay of ten months, he left Cadiz and embarked with his packages for Havre, whence he reached Paris. His collection arrived there also, but this he seemed no longer to set any value upon. He was requested to publish an account of it, but refused, maintaining that the promise he had given, though obtained from him by force, was not in his mind the less sacred.

Upon this refusal M. de Buffon, after having granted him 60,000 livres to discharge his debts, and a pension of 6000, took the herbarium to himself, and remitted it to L'Heritier, with directions to describe and get engraved all the new plants it contained. The Spanish minister being informed of these proceedings, made complaints; and the court of France being unwilling to offend that of Spain, M. de Buffon received orders to recall the herbarium. It was at this time that L'Heritier departed secretly with it to England, where he remained fifteen months occupied in describing it. This work has however never seen the light; the misfortunes of the revolution prevented its completion, and Dombey is deceased without having seen any thing published. L'Heritier has also perished by a most horrible catastrophe, before it was finished. In the mean time Messrs. Ruiz and Pavon having returned from Peru in 1788, it is at length from the Spanish press that this magnificent work, the Flora of Peru, has been ushered into the world.

It is impossible to avoid making here the following reflection: The vessel in which was embarked the collection belonging to the court of Spain being wrecked, it is from the specimens collected by Dombey, from his descriptions, and from the designs made under his care, that a part of the above mentioned work has been compiled; I say a part, because Ruiz and Pavon having staid four years longer in Peru, assisted by other fellow-labourers, must no doubt have added much to what Dombey did; nevertheless his name ought to have appeared in the title page*.

However indifferent it may be to the progress of science, whether this work was published by France or by Spain, it ought, nevertheless, for the reputation of Dombey, to be known how much he contributed towards it; and France herself is concerned, that the credit of the discoveries, made by a Frenchman, should not be taken from her. I will not attempt to point

* It is indeed confessed in the preface that the history of the plants of Chili could not have appeared, unless Dombey had given the duplicates of his collection. "Et nisi D.O.M. Dombeyum incolumem servasset, qui Gades pervenit, et prout ab expeditionis initio præstabilitum fuerat, plantas quas multiplici numero, eo consilio exsiccarat, communicasset, jacturam stirpium Chilensium penitus irreparabilem adhuc deploraremus." But it is by no means proved that Dombey had ever promised duplicates of his plants; and allowing the fact to be so, that condition was already fulfilled by the division that had been made before at Callao.

out the motives that should induce the editors of that work to seek to appropriate to themselves the labours of Dombey; or how the Spanish minister was deceived, and the claims of an unprotected traveller, who, separated from his companions, could not even call upon their testimony, were silenced. Why should I stop to develope a hateful intrigue, whilst I contemplate so elevated a character, the victim of jealousy and misfortune? I have proved that he has done great things, I have shown that he has not been recompensed, and I draw a veil over details most afflicting.

The plan of retiring into solitude, at the foot of Mount Jura, there peaceably to finish his days, near to a good cultivator whom he had formerly known, was what now alone occupied the thoughts of Dombey. All his debts were paid, and he found himself sufficiently rich. Disgusted with celebrity, and with the sciences which he once so passionately loved, he gave to his friends whatever he could dispose of, and broke off all his correspondence with foreign naturalists, preserving a friendly intercourse with M. de Pavon alone.

The death of M. Guettard having occasioned a vacancy in the academy in the year 1786, the learned members turned their views to Dombey, and M. Jussieu undertook to present him; but he obstinately refused the intended honour. The Russian ambassador having offered, on account of the empress, 100,000 livres for the duplicates he still possessed, he returned his thanks with saying, that an increase of fortune was not an equivalent to him for the pleasure of presenting to the naturalists of his own country specimens that had cost him so much trouble to acquire. Lastly, M. de Galvez, wishing in some sort to recompense him for the sacrifices he had required of him in Spain, wrote to offer him a very considerable sum, which he without hesitation refused*.

As his plan of settling in the country could not be executed so expeditiously as he wished, he in the mean time retired to Lyons, to the house of some ladies, his relations, where he became a misanthrope, hardly ever seeing any one. Here he was, during the siege of the city; and although he seemed to know nothing of what passed, and to pay no regard to life, yet the general desolation, and the surrounding dangers overwhelmed him with terror. He resumed courage however to assist the sick, and to give succour to some unfortunate beings, sinking under the horrors of famine. After the taking of the city, he hastened to quit this scene of carnage and devastation, to seek a peaceful asylum; but at that time blood was flowing in every direction, and the sights to which he was witness so harrowed up his soul, that he would no longer abide in France. An order was however necessary to enable him to quit it; he therefore solicited a commission which should authorize him to make a voyage to America. The committee of public safety having invited that of public instruction to send to the United States the standard of the new measures, the latter gave to Dombey this commission by an *arrêt* of the 26th Frimaire, year 2. He was likewise authorized to buy corn for France in the United States, and a number of queries were sent him relative to objects of science, of commerce, and of geography. Accordingly he embarked at Havre, in an American brig, the 24th Nivose, year 2; but being obliged by a storm to put into Guadaloupe, he landed at Port-a-Petre, the 21st Ventose.

Guadaloupe was at that time in the same distracted state as France. The revolutionary party had the command at Port-a-Petre: the governor resided at Basseterre, joined by such as wished to preserve the old order of things in the colony. Dombey being well received in quality of envoy from the republic, was for this reason suspected by the governor, who sent an order for him to repair to Basseterre. But although of principles opposite to the factious, he did not think proper to obey the summons; he resolved therefore to depart with the delegates of the revolutionary corps of representatives, who had freighted a small vessel for Philadelphia. He left Port-a-Petre the 1st Germinal, and went to sleep on a little island, whence the vessel was to take him the next day.

* This fact was verified to me, by M. Michel, doctor of physic at Fullins, a friend of Dombey, who had read the letter from M. Galvez.

During the night, he was seized and thrown into prison at the bay of Mabaut. Upon the knowledge of this event the inhabitants of Point-a-Petre assembled in a great croud to demand the release of the envoy of the committee of public instruction, which was immediately granted. As soon as he made his appearance, the enraged mob, to avenge the treatment he had received, determined to seize the authors of it. Dombey having in employed intreaties to oppose this violence, placed himself before the leaders of the mob, in struggling with whom he fell into Salt River, and was taken out without signs of life. This accident diverting the attention of the people, they returned peaceably home. Thus the last act of his liberty was to defend those against whom he had reason to complain. A violent fever was the consequence of this fall and alarm; as soon as he recovered from which, to avoid new troubles, he thought it was most prudent to go before the governor. Being interrogated, he was found to be an upright man, and a stranger to all party spirit. He was ordered however to quit the colony on board the same vessel that had brought him thither, which was about to set sail. Scarcely had the ship got out of the road before she was attacked by two corsairs, against whom she could not defend herself. Dombey was detected disguised in the habit of a Spanish sailor, and thrown into prison at Monserrat, where disease, disappointment, and ill usage, soon put a period to his existence. His fate was for a long time unknown; for such was at that time the convulsed state of France, that no notice could be taken of the misfortunes of an absent man. The intelligence of his death was at length received at New York, and communicated to the committee of public instruction on the 27th Vendemaire, year 3, about six months after the event took place.

Thus, after passing a life of perpetual agitation, and exposed to a thousand dangers, the victim of injustice, and robbed of the fruit of his labours, fell Dombey, without a friend to console him, and in distant captivity;—adding one to the list of those who have died martyrs to their zeal for natural history. But whilst we deplore his destiny, let us not consider it as without alleviation. Let it be remembered that his death arrived at that awful period when so many meritorious men were subjected to the revolutionary axe; that through his whole life his sentiments of benevolence, patriotism, and generosity were never diminished; that supported in the midst of dangers by his love of science, the idea of enriching his country never forsook him; that even his misanthropy, whilst it estranged him from the indifferent, attached him the more closely to a few friends, and the melancholy which cast a shade over his latter days, never changed the amiability of his character. Happy in the recollection of the good he had done to his contemporaries; happy in the foresight of the advantage posterity would reap from his discoveries, he knew how to find enjoyments beyond the power of man to embitter. Long accustomed to disappointment, he gave up every project, renounced every hope; and despising both fortune and fame, in the midst of the most tubulent times, lived only to friendship and virtue.

I have already observed that the collection of Dombey was divided with Spain; that in Paris he had given to his patrons, to his friends, and to several naturalists, such duplicates as he could part with, without diminishing the value of the collection designed for the government.

Mineralogy is indebted to him for two new minerals, viz. muriated copper, or green sand of Peru; and *l'eucluse*, the finest chrystal of which is preserved in the cabinet of M. de Drée. The *école des mines* possesses several valuable articles that came from him; but the greater part of the fruits of his voyages is contained in the National Museum.

The gallery of minerals owes to him, besides the two before-mentioned substances, crystals of prismatic hyaline quartz; a very fine native emerald from Peru, in a matrix of lamellar limestone; several pieces of native gold branched in quartz; a piece of vein very rich in silver, above thirty pounds weight: the metal appears in it in the form of diverging branches; superb pieces of muriated silver, with shining granulated crystals; a mass of compact muriated silver, weighing above twelve pounds; specimens of ores of quick-

silver; of flexible grit; of fossil bones of the gigantic animal of the Ohio, incrusted with silver, &c.

The gallery of zoology has received from him the Mouffette of Chili, described in the supplement to Buffon; many birds, amongst which are several species of Tangara; several fish, one unknown, described by M. de Lacèpéde, under the name of Gastrobranche de Dombey; the magnificent butterflies of Brazil, and several species of Curculio and of the Zygænæ*. His herbarium, consisting of about 1500 species, well preserved, is also deposited in the museum: amongst these are about sixty new genera, almost all of which have been published by Ruiz and Pavon, by names different from those given by Dombey. It is accompanied by a manuscript containing a history of the plants of Peru and Chili; the characters of the new genera; the description of the species, and an account of their uses†. It contains also many observations on the mines of Chili.

The garden of the museum is indebted to Dombey for several curious plants, which have thence been spread over the principal gardens of Europe. Such as the shrub known by the name of *Floripendia*‡, which produces so picturesque an effect in our parterres for several months in the year, catching the eye at a distance by its bell-shaped flowers, a foot long, hanging floating from extremities of the branches: the *Aristotelia maqui*, the berries of which afford a refreshing juice, in which Dombey found a great resource in the cure of the contagious fever of Chili; the species of sage which L'Heritier has named *Salvia formosa*, the scarlet flowers of which possess a lively brilliancy. But the most interesting of all the plants which Dombey has introduced amongst us, is the lemon-scented vervain (*Verbena triphylla* L'Her.) The leaves of this shrub, which grows to the height of fifteen feet, have the most delicious perfume of any plant that can be cultivated in Europe. At Paris it is necessary to protect it in the greenhouse, during the severe frosts; but in the more temperate climates it thrives in the open air. Hedges of this shrub are already seen at Florence; and in the department of the Lower Alps it has been successfully cultivated by M. de Ruffo. When it shall come to be more dispersed in the south of France, it will be seen by the side of the roads, forming little groves, which, from the the elegant growth of the shrubs, the lightness of the panicles of flowers, of a lavender gray colour, the lively green of the foliage, and above all from their sweet reviving perfume, will in every repect exceed the groves of myrtle so celebrated by the poets. The dried leaves preserve all their odour, and an infusion of them is both palatable and wholesome: if this plant, as some botanists think, ought to be separated from the vervains and made a separate genus of, we should wish to see it consecrated to the name of Dombey.

The gardens and the cabinets of natural history are not the only establishments that have been enriched by this traveller. The cabinet of antiquities in the national library has received from him the vases found in the tombs of the incas, and several curious monuments of the antient Peruvians.

Nothing of Dombey's has been printed, except a letter in the *Journal de Physique* (tom. xv.) upon the saltpetre found in Peru, and upon the luminous appearance of the sea. In this he observes that the sea is never phosphoric, except in the warm or temperate climates, and that it is especially so when the weather is disposed to be stormy. *Annals of Botany.*

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* Amongst these papilios are two very rare and of the greatest beauty; one has been named by Fabricius *Papilio Laërtes*, the other is a non-descript, related to *Papilio Hecuba*. The weevils are not less remarkable, one is the *Curculio imperialis* of Fabricius; two others, *C. fastuosus* and *sumptuosus*, which Olivier has described from these individuals. The names given to these curculios point out how much they exceed in beauty and size what had been before observed.

† On comparing this manuscript with the *Flora Peruviana*, it may be seen that the Spanish authors have often copied the descriptions of the French botanist.

‡ Cultivated in Peru, but, as Dombey assures us, brought from Chili.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

CUSTOMS CHANGED.

SIR,

THE following literal transcript of an order from Henry the VIII. signed by his own hand, for the use of the Lady Lucye, one of the maids of honour in his court, which seems to be for one day's consumpt of that Lady, I think will amuse many of your female readers. Great indeed must be the reformation in point of manners, since the time of the Lady Lucye, if the temperament of the mind depend in the smallest manner, on the quantity and quality of the aliment used for the sustenance of the Body. Even in point of expenses all the elegant habiliments of one of our fair Country women, joined to the cost of the most dainty repasts, and comprehending every species of luxurious refinement in which they at present indulge themselves, would not amount to half the value of the Lady Lucye's bill of fare.

ORDER OF HENRY VIII.

"We wol and commaunde you, to allow dailly from hensforth, unto our Right Dere and Wellbilovede the Lady Lucye, into her Chambre, the Dyiet and feire hereafter ensuying. Furst, every moyrning at Breakfast oon Chyne of Beyfe at our Kechyene oon Cheyte loff and oon manechet at our panatrye Barr, and a galone of ale at our Buttrye barr. Item, at dyner a pese of beyfe, a stroke of Roste, and a reward at our sede Kechyne, a cast of chete bread at our panatrye barr, and a galone of ale at our buttrye barr. Item, at afternoon a maunchet at our panatrye barr, and halfe a galone of ale at our Buttrye barr. Item, at Supper a messe of Porage, a pese of Mutton, and a rewarde at our saide Kechyne, a cast of cheyte at our panatrye, and a Galone of ale at our Buttrye brede. Item, at after Supper a Chete loff, and a maunchet at our panatrye barr, a Galone of ale at our buttrye barr, and half a galone of Wine at our seller barr. Item, every morning at our Woode yard four tall Shyd and two fagots. Item, at our chaundrye barr in winter every night oon prekett and four syses of waxe, with eight Candells white lights, and oon torch. Item, at our Picherhouse Wokely six white Cuppes. Item, at every time of our remooving oon hoole Carte for the Carriage of her stuff, and these our lettres shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge in this behalf at all tymes hereafter.

Giuen under ouer signet at our manour of Esthamsteide XVIth day of July XIIIjth yere of our reigne. *To the Lord Steward of our Household, the treasurer Comptroller, Cofferer, Clerks of Grene Clothe, Clerks of our Kechyne, and to all our hed Officers of our sed household, and to every of theym.*

ARBUTHNOT.

This Physician, when a young man, attempted to settle at Dorchester, a county town in the west of England, remarkable for its healthy situation, salubrious air, and interesting environs; circumstances desirable to a traveller or an inhabitant, but not productive to a physician.

On quitting Dorsetshire, a friend met him galloping to London, and asked him whether he was going? "To leave your confounded place," replied the physician, "for I can neither live nor die there."

THE TRIUMPH OF TALENT.

Beauzet was elected a member of the French Academy, in the early part of the 18th. century, at a period when the meetings of that society were crowded with unbelievers; yet Beauzet was firmy convinced of the truth of the Christian religion, and able to defend what he believed.

At the time it was the occasion of some surprise, that those who influenced that body, did not choose a genius of their own cast. "I consider myself as highly honoured," said Beauzet at his first introduction, "by being admitted into this illustrious assembly; but, gentlemen, may I be permitted to ask, how it has happened that your choice fell upon me, who, on certain subjects differ so widely with you; if I mistake not," continued Beauzet, casting his eyes around him, "at the

moment I speak, I am the only person who acknowledge the existence of a God."

"We are not surprized at your question," replied D' Alembert, "but you possess qualifications of which we stand in need, we wanted a skilful grammarian and etymologist, and knowing you to be a good sort of a man, notwithstanding your weakness on certain points, we elected you, because, in fact, there was no philosopher able to supply your place."

Such was the triumph of virtuous talent over profane prejudice, and fanatic scepticism.

CAROLAN.

This celebrated composer and musician once challenged a brother professor of considerable eminence to a trial of skill, who immediately played the fifth concerto of Vivaldo. "I cannot excel it," exclaimed the generous bard, "but I can play it as well myself." This he actually did at the moment, without losing a single note, and without having recourse to any score, which it was impossible for a man born blind to make any use of.

A GOOD GOVERNOR.

In the beginning of the present century, George Lewis, Margrave of Bareith, finding his exchequer empty, and a long catalogue of debts, particularly four hundred and sixty thousand florins due to the late king of Prussia; was advised by his ministers to impose new taxes on his subjects. The Margrave rejected this advice with honest indignation, and determining to rely on prudent economy, rather than on the patience and generosity of his people, he dismissed a useless and expensive train of servants and horses, appointed a regency, and retired to Geneva: having liquidated his debts he returned, and enjoyed the public love, in sober splendour and magnificent hospitality.

EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF SOMNILOQUISM.

The countess De Laval, a french lady of quality, at an early period of her life, had been in the habit of speaking in her sleep, and was frequently observed on those occasions to utter an incoherent gibberish, which no one could understand. But, on a certain occasion, being confined to her chamber by illness, a woman of Brittany was employed to wait on her as a nurse; the moment this attendant heard the sick lady pouring out, according to custom, these strange nocturnal effusions, she pronounced them to be the uncouth language used in that province, which is as different from the pure Parisian, as the Cornish, from the conversation of a polite circle in London; it ought to be observed that the countess was a native of Brittany but had quitted it when very young. In that province, or in a person who spoke their dialect, the circumstance here recorded would not have been extraordinary; but Madam De Laval, when awake, could not speak or even pronounce that jargon, nor understand it when spoken by another."

HENRY IV. OF FRANCE.

Alphonso D'Ornano was a Hugonot of considerable repute in the reign of Henry IV. of France, by whom he was prevailed upon to quit the reformed religion, and his acquiescence rewarded with a Marshall's staff. By seducing so eminent a sectary, the Monarch hoped to countenance his own change, to which he had consented from genuine patriotism, and a conviction that it was the only means of restoring tranquillity to his distracted people. "You have damned your soul for the salvation of your country," were the strong words of a sensible sectary of that distracted period.

There is strong proof that Henry's alteration of religion did not arise from any consciousness of the truth of its tenets, or the divine origin of its tradition. "Which of the two religions do you think the best?" said the king, in a confidential moment, to his military convert. "The Protestant, undoubtedly," replied the veteran, "in which opinion I have the honour to coincide with your majesty." "How is that D' Ornano," said the prince, with a cheek flushed by irritation, and somewhat raising his voice; "after what has so lately passed, can you be serious in asserting, that I think the religious faith of the Hugonots the best?" "Certainly, my liege, or you would never have bribed me so handsomely to quit it." Corrected and perplexed by this short but unanswerable logic, Henry paused for a moment, and turned the conversation to another subject.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED HORSE-SHOE,

Invented by Mr. Edward Coleman, Vet. Surg.

THE object of this invention is to prevent diseases of the horse's foot, particularly the contraction of the hoof. This disease proceeds from the hoof being exposed to artificial and unnatural heat in the stable, or from the frog not receiving its due degree of pressure. This shoe is designed to prevent the contraction of the heels, though the frog be not in contact with the ground; it also has the advantage of being more firmly united to the hoof than any others hitherto employed. It can also be properly applied by the most ignorant and uninformed smith, as its difference from all others consists in the inner and posterior parts of both heels of the shoe being turned up, so as to touch the inner and posterior parts of both bars, by which means the heels of the hoof cannot contract, or the shoe have the smallest degree of lateral motion. The length of the turn up of the shoe should be sufficiently long to embrace the heel of the bar, and yet not to touch the bottom of the cavity between the bar and the frog. A bar shoe may also be applied with a similar projection, to press against the heels of the bars. If the hoof is already contracted, the heels may be mechanically expanded a little by a pair of farrier's tongs every time the horse is shod, and the shoe applied so as to press with more force against the bars: but under these circumstances the hoof should first be made moist by standing two or three hours in water, and the horse not used for a day or two afterwards.

New Method of making Carbonate of Lead, commonly called white Lead: by Mr. E. M. Noble.

Thin plates or small pieces of lead are to be placed in an open vessel; into this is to be poured acetous acid, or a solution of acetite of lead, so that the lead may be partly immersed in it: into this is introduced a mixture of Carbonic acid gas, and oxygen gas. The whole is frequently agitated to remove the carbonate when formed, and afford a new surface to the action of the fluids. Instead of lead in a metallic state, the inventor sometimes uses an oxyd of lead containing such a proportion of oxygen as will allow it to unite with acetous acid, &c. In either case the carbonate of lead is produced, the whiteness of which depends on the quality of the materials employed. The carbonate is to be separated from the mixture and dried, previous to being mixed with oil. Sometimes it requires to be freed from its impurities by washing.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

The following poem, never before published, was written by a young man who lived near Moyallen, in the county Down. He died sometime ago, of the small pox, at the age of twenty-one years. He received his education at a common country school, where he learned to read, write, and cast accounts. Of his early indications of genius little is remembered, but it is a fact that he wrote a great many pieces at an early age, most, if not all, of which have been lost. His employment of weaving did not allow much time for the cultivation of his talent; yet while actively employed at his work, he would suddenly stop, seize his pen, and pourtray the images of his lively imagination, on no other desk than the breast beam of his loom. In this way, and on such an occasion, the present piece was written. While at work he observed two spiders seize on a fly who had got entangled in their nets; his imagination added the rest.

BATTLE OF SPIDERS.

SOFTLY blow the summer breezes,
O'er the dew bespangled mead,
And the sun with fiery lustre,
Pierces through the thickest shade;

Softly runs the murmuring river,
Through the plains in easy rills,
And the swains their sheep attending,
Pipe melodious on the hills.

In a grove whose ample covert,
Shaded o'er a winding flood,
Close beside the limpid water,
There an ancient abbey stood.

Once it was a holy structure,
Where religious friars stay,
But it long had been deserted
And in heapy ruins lay.

Here two bands of cruel spiders,
Hung their treacherous nets on high,
And lay lurking in a corner,
To surprise the unwary fly.

O'er these lands there rul'd two chieftains,
Whose broad nets contiguous lay,
And they often were disputing,
Who should bear the greatest sway.

When behold a fly, whose buzzing
Long employed each monarch's thought,
With its purple wings extended,
Just between the nets was caught.

Hard it struggled for its freedom,
Quite impatient of delay,
When with horrid jaws expanded,
These grim furies seized their prey;

So, two lions from the forest,
Fly with most tremendous roar,
Flocks and herds in pieces rending,
Staining all the ground with gore;

Thus they seize the panting victim,
Loud it sends repeated cries,
Wearied out at last with torture,
Buzzes, struggles, faints, and dies.

Then began a fierce contention,
Who the breathless corpse should have,
Each one thought he best deserved it,
Each with equal fury rave.

Striving still to haul it backwards,
Each black warrior tries in vain,
When around in thick'ning legions,
Cluster all the long-legg'd train.

Adverse parties aid their chieftains,
Long they pull with furious rage,
But when neither tribe could gain it,
All in bloody fight engage;

So, two thundering armies meeting,
Loud with clamour shake the shore,
Dreadful wounds, and death succeeding,
Trumpets sound, and cannons roar.

Thus they rage with dreadful fury,
All in one tumultuous throng,
Foot to foot, was there opposed,
Rank drove rank with force along.

Grinning teeth, and jaws extended,
Eyes that shot a fiery glare,
Fury on each visage painted,
Dreadful rage inspires the war.

Thus they seek each other's ruin,
Thus they pant for mutual blood,
When an owl with fury flying,
Darts out of the gloomy wood.

Straight its flight it then directed
To the scene of hostile fray,
And, with beak and claws extended,
Tore at once both hosts away.

TO HOPE.

HOPE, thou soother of affliction,
Wipe, with lenient hand the tear,
Strike me with the kind conviction,
That thy promised joys are near.

Thou from anguish oft relieved me,
Op'd bright prospects to my view,
Tho' thou in the end deceived me,
For the time I thought thee true.

When oppressed with care and sorrow,
Still, kind hope, thou hoverest near;
Thou an angel's form dost borrow,
Doubt's dark gloomy clouds to clear.

When chill poverty oppressing,
Binds the poor man to the oar,
He can bear the weight, confessing
That the best deserves no more.

Ready Hope his case befriending,
With the prospect warms his brea
That his toil and trouble ending,
He in Heaven will find his rest.

When love, of peace the bosom robbing,
Scorning spurns at wealth or fame,
When the fond heart thrilling, throbbing,
Vibrates at the dear one's name.

Hope can mitigate the anguish,
Paint the lover faithful, true,
Hope can make us cease to languish,
Every joyful hour renew.

When our friends drop off around us,
Sinking one by one to rest,
Let not grief or doubt confound us,
Hope will whisper they are blest.

When affliction deeper seated,
Than the loss of worldly wealth,
When heart-felt sorrows oft repeated,
Slowly undermine the health,

Hope, firm on her anchor leaning,
Proves our sure and stedfast stay,
She all worldly woes disdaining,
Points to heaven, and leads the way.

LYDIA.

SELECT POETRY.

THE WORM OF THE STILL.

I HAVE found what the learn'd seem so puzzled to tell,
The *true* shape of the devil, and where is his hell;
Into serpents of old, crept the author of ill,
But Satan works now, as a worm of the *still*.

Of all his migrations, this last he likes best,
How the arrogant reptile, here, raises his crest!
His head winding up from the tail of his plan,
Till the worm stands erect o'er the *prostrated* man.

Here he joys to transform, by his magical spell,
The sweet milk of the earth to an essence of hell,
Fermented our food and corrupted our grain,
To famish the stomach and madden the brain.

By his water of life, what distraction and fear!
By the gloom of its light, what pale spectres appear!
A demon keeps time with his fiddle finance,
While the passions spring forth in a horrible dance.

Then prone on the earth, they adore in the dust,
A man's baser half, rais'd in room of his bust;
Such orgies the nights of the drunkard display,
But how black with ennui, how benighted his day!

With drams it begins, and with drams must it end,
A dram is his country, his mistress, his friend;
Till the ossify'd heart hates itself at the last,
And the dram nerves his hand for the death-doing blast.

Mark that mother, that monster, that shame and that curse,
See her child hang dead-drunk at the breast of its nurse;
As it drops from the arm mark her stupify'd stare,
Then she wakes with a yell and a shriek of despair.

Is this the *civility* promis'd our nation?
This the *union*, dissolv'd in a cup of damnation,
Which our chancellor Comus extols as divine,
To train up our fate and our fortune, as swine.

Drink, Erin, drink deep from this crystalline round,
Till the tortures of self-recollection be drown'd;
Till the hopes of thy heart be all stiffen'd to stone,
Then sit down on the dirt, like a queen on her throne.

No frenzy for freedom to flash o'er the brain,
Then shalt dance to the musical clank of the chain,
A crown of cheap straw shall seem rich to thine eye,
And peace and good order shall reign in the sty.

Nor boast that no track of the viper is seen,
To stain thy pure surface of emerald green,
For the serpent will never want poison to kill,
While the fat of your fields feeds *the Worm of the still*.

X.

VERSES ON SIR J. MOORE.

WRITTEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER INTELLIGENCE HAD ARRIVED OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS MARCH FROM LISBON.

UNCHECK'D by regards of duration and distance,
How sweet on the missions of fancy to stray!
To leave the dull confines of local existence,
And wanton, and bask in the glitter of day!
But hence ye pale visions of sickly invention,
A scene not unreal my senses enchains:
Now Spain, all in arms, rears the flag of contention,
And Europe's last battle is fought on her plains.
In quest of the fight, march her high-soul'd defenders,
Their phalanx how dense, how unshaken their tread!
The foe his vain ensigns of empire surrenders,
Fear chases his hosts, and his satraps are fled;
The Gaul calls new hordes from the wide circling regions,
Dark clouds of stern menace the prospect obscure;
Enraptur'd I mark the advance of the legions,
Which Britain, undoubting, confides to her MOORE.
Thro' deserts, o'er mountains, 'cross floods and morasses,
The hero explores his inflexible way,
Slow famine, insidious, strews snares where he passes,
And fronting his progress stands war in array.
Ah! were the fond breathings of friendship availing,
Ripe harvests, lov'd chieftain! should start from the sod;
Wide floods roll confined beneath arches unfailing,
And war, like a slave, be controul'd by thy nod.
Fit theme for bright ode, or grave legend preparing,
Go measure thy worth 'gainst the minions of fame;
Intrepidly cautious, and skilfully daring,
Change defeat to success, and mould triumph from shame;
Pursue thy high fates, and serenely ambitious,
The rank which thy merits award thee assume,
A CHURCHILL, of laurels alone avaricious!
A NELSON, unstamped by the seal of the tomb!

ANCIENT LITERATURE.

REFLECTIONS ON JUVENAL.

Semper ego auditor tantum? nunquamne reponam,
Vexatus toties.....

Frequently have I been annoyed, and sometimes provoked, by hearing the most foul aspersions profusely lavished on the works of the immortal Juvenal, by persons incapable of judging of the real merits of that Author; but perhaps, my fondness and partiality for that Prince of Satirists, have contributed not a little to excite my vexation and chagrin. From the minute details given by our Author, of the villanies, and iniquities that were practised in his days, some of his accusers have been led to believe that he had something more than a mere theoretic knowledge of the depravity of the times, and have therefore affixed to him the degrading title, of having been "*a rakish debauchee.*" Now, partly a desire to pay some little tribute of gratitude to the memory of Juvenal, as a compensation for the instruction and delight which his pages have often afforded me; and partly a wish to endeavour to free his character from this stigma, have induced me to hazard these reflections and to lay them before the tribunal of public scrutiny, through the medium of your magazine, which, I trust, will always continue to be a repository of erudition and instruction. Even supposing him to have been practically acquainted with the iniquities of his times, he, on that account is certainly entitled to extraordinary merit, for having rescued himself from the *Vortex* of licentiousness, and standing forth as the castigator and exposer of lewdness, in order to excite a disgust of it in his well disposed readers. However, instances could be adduced, of persons being able to display in forcible and glowing language, circumstances with which it never could be conceived they had the slightest practical acquaintance, and minutely describing the vicious habits of the times, and the compunction and remorse generally attendant on the practice of them; and who would insinuate these are any thing else than theoretic descriptions? The great Sterne (though not exactly a case in point,) who stands unrivalled in pathetic descriptions, appears to have been "an actor only;" as some late accounts prove him to have been a person of the most obdurate insensibility. The profligacy of the times was too barefaced and glaring, to pass unnoticed, even by a common observer; and the incensed Satirist, was obliged to make use of language, which was sanctioned by the licentiousness, and lewdness of the age; when, no innuendoes, nothing but plain undisguised truth, could be attended with any beneficial effect. Notwithstanding, I allow,

Si foret hoc nostrum fato dilatus in ævum,
Detereret sibi multa, recideret omne quod ultra
Pudorem traheretur.

His obscenities, however, are completely counterbalanced, by the sound morality which pervades the greater part of his works; and the christian reader, though aided and enlightened by the bright lustre of *Revelation*, may be put to the blush, when he finds his vices and irregularities not only censured and satirized; but himself equalled in the most virtuous conceptions, and moral reflections, by a being assisted merely by the *faint rays* of natural *Religion*. For Juvenal not only lashes at the vices of his own, but (I am sorry to say) of our times also. At present one or two instances must suffice. What author has so convincingly and so beautifully illustrated the futility of those transient and temporal qualifications, which mankind, *even now* so eagerly desire, and so ardently aspire after, as Juvenal has done, in that *Sermonic Lecture*, his tenth Satire? when, at the hazard of his existence, he censured a vicious Emperor, for investing one of the *Histrionic* tribe* with the first offices of state, how applicable to the present day! for we see, not exactly a stage-player,

* The Classical scholar is too well acquainted with this story, to need any particular illustration.

but, as Peter Plymley asserts, "a joker of jokes, an Epigrammatist &c. &c."† not only honoured with high preferment, but lavishing some of the Nation's wealth on whomsoever he pleases, and, indisputably evident it must appear, that the worthless and incapable, occupy those high stations, and reputable employments in the state, which should be entrusted to none but the ingenuous and capable, especially in times so momentous as the present. Though not blind to his defects, were I possessed of talents adequate to eulogise Juvenal suitably as he deserves, I would summon them all up to my aid; and in doing so, I would consider myself honourably employed. This must suffice however for the present. At some future period, perhaps I may submit to the public, reflections on the same author; provided these are deemed worthy of a place in your impartial publication.

Yours, M. F.

ON THE EPISTLES OF PHALARIS.

THE dispute concerning the authenticity of the epistles that go under the name of the celebrated tyrant of Agrigentum, has been long since decided: and learned men are now fully agreed that they are spurious, being, most probably, the production of some of the later Greek sophists, who either through love of money, or for a trial of his own ingenuity, has imposed on the literary world the essay of his imagination as a compilation of the genuine letters of Phalaris.

In our own days, such deceptions are common, and are so easily detected that they scarcely deserve the name of fraud. They are intended by the author and considered by his reader as a means of conveying information so as to attract attention and arrest curiosity more strongly than if delivered by himself. They may be compared to inscriptions on monuments the words of which are supposed to proceed from the body enclosed, and for this reason, make a more lively impression on our minds.

Viewed in this light I have admired the ingenuity with which the writer of het epistles has depicted a likeness of a tyrant; how strongly he has marked those lines which determine the character; how well he has expressed the contending passions which agitate his breast; and the strange though natural inconsistency which forces him frequently to act in a manner so dissonant to the feelings of his heart, and the determination of his better judgment.

The account we have of the extraordinary character who forms the subject of the letters is very short and unsatisfactory. Little more is known of him than that he was a native of Crete, and in consequence of one of those civil commotions, which eternally agitated every Grecian city, that was not bound down by the chains of despotism, he retired to Agrigentum in Sicily, where he found means to usurp the Government, and not only added one to the list of tyrants, of which, as the Latin historian says, no country was ever more fertile, but, if we may credit the accounts given by every antient author by whom he is mentioned, he surpassed them all in ingenious refinements of cruelty.

Yet if we are to believe the writer of these letters, many splendid qualities broke out from among the midst of his vices. Superior abilities as a statesman and general must belong to every usurper, as they are the only means by which he can acquire and possess absolute dominion. But he is represented as possessing in a very high degree some of the domestic virtues, which are generally supposed to bloom only in the humbler scenes of private retirement, but to be too tender to endure the storms and exposure of an exalted situation. His letters to his wife and his son, do honour to the heart that conceived and the head that formed them; and it cannot but excite our regret that the man so well calculated to constitute the felicity of a domestic society, should prefer to become the cause of a nation's miseries and the object of its execrations. The following are translations of the letters alluded to.

TO PAUROLAS.

"Both your parents, my son, merit your love and highest respect, on

† Peter Plimley's letter to his brother Abraham in the country.

account of the favours you have received from those to whom you owe your birth and so many other benefits. Yet a preference is certainly due to a mother beyond a father: for his claims to your gratitude for the cares of education are by no means equal to hers. A mother, besides the pains of birth and the cares of infancy, endures a thousand other anxieties; a father on the contrary, without experiencing any of these troubles, reaps the benefits and comfort of maturer years, refined and perfected by education. To you, above all others, should your mother be dear; as during my banishment she alone underwent the cares of both parents. It is your duty, therefore, to repay to her alone the gratitude due to both your parents: your obligation to your father will be fulfilled by your attentions to her. I claim nothing more for myself, if you perform this part of your duty; on the contrary, your kindness to her will be felt and acknowledged as a benefit by me. Consider also how becoming it will be in you, if the first display of your good intentions towards your father, be shewn in making a return to your mother for all the cares she has so lavishly bestowed on you."

TO THE SAME.

"I have received the crown which you sent me, of six hundred minæ weight; and have accepted it, both on account of the good omen, and from my regard to him who sent it. After having worn it the day on which I offered a sacrifice to the gods of our ancestors for the victory over the Leontines, I sent it as a present to your mother Erythia. I know no person who so well deserves such an ornament as a mother. You may render yourself a more beautiful and honourable crown to us, if your sentiments are suitable to the glory of your parents."

TO THE SAME.

"You have obtained the rights due by a father to a son, my Paurolas; you are wrong in not repaying those due by you to your father, when you have it in your power. I hear that you neglect your studies; a fault for which I have had cause for frequent blame. Should you be deficient in this part of your duty, I shall pay but little regard to the rest. Be assured, if you gratify my wish, that the advantages of Education will accrue, not to me who receive, but to you who bestow the favour."

TO ERYTHIA.

"I have to return you many thanks, my Erythia, both for myself and for our son whom I left with you. For myself, because during my banishment you preferred to remain a widow, rather than marry another, notwithstanding the many proposals made to you. For my son, because you were to him a mother, a nurse and a father: you preferred no husband to Phalaris, no son to Paurolas. Instead of a second husband, retaining your affection for the first; instead of another son, preserving the offspring of your first marriage. Continue still for both our sakes to bestow these favours on him until he shall have attained an age which will render him independent of our care. I make this request of you so earnestly, not as if I doubted the tenderness of a mother, and such a mother, but as a father anxious for his only son. From your own feelings you can form a judgment of a parent's fears for his children, and will grant me your pardon for the manner in which I write concerning him. Farewell."

Other letters on the same subject express similar sentiments. Those also to his friends are equally admirable for their sentiments and the elegance of the language in which they are expressed. That addressed to a physician who had attended him during a severe illness is peculiarly worthy of notice. It is strongly expressive of the fears and suspicions he entertained of all around him.

TO POLYCLITUS.

I know not, Polyclitus, whether I ought more to admire your skill or fidelity. The one has triumphed over a deadly disease, the other has taught you to reject the honour bestowed on the slayer of a tyrant. Your justice incited by both of these has rescued me from the assault of a double enemy, the attack of an inevitable distemper, and the designs of my enemies. For had the disease been fatal, it was completely in your power, by

permitting it to take its course, to have obtained the character of a destroyer of tyrants; had it been otherwise, you might have easily effected the same purpose, by administering improper drugs, as I took with confidence every medicine you offered. But you scorned to prefer unjust gain, to real glory: perhaps also from a principle of piety you thought that the disease which delivered me into your hands, was not a proper means for putting an end to a tyrant. Being therefore in your power to treat me as you pleased, I can never make you a return equal to your merits, and can only say, that your sentiments are worthy of the deity from whom you have received your skill. However together with these well merited praises I have sent you as proofs of my gratitude, four cups of pure gold, two silver bowls of superior workmanship, ten pair of glass goblets, twenty young slaves, and fifty thousand pieces of silver. I have also written to Teucer the president of my household to allow you a pension equal to what the captains of my fleet, my life guards and the colonels of the rest of my forces receive. To these, for want of other means, let me add, the acknowledgement of my inability to bestow on you a reward equal to your services."

In a subsequent letter he pardons a conspirator who had been clearly convicted of a design against his life, through the intercession of Polyclitus.

He appears also to have been a lover and encourager of literature in all its branches. He endeavoured to persuade men of learning to settle at Agrigentum, but seems to have been generally unsuccessful. None of the philosophers except Pythagoras, seem to have acted with the magnanimity of Plato, in exposing their lives through a desire of reclaiming a tyrant. From Abaris the Scythian he received an answer to a proposal of this nature, which, if the letter be genuine, reflects little credit on the writer's character. In several parts of his correspondence, both with the philosophers and others, he confesses that he retains the government which he had usurped, not through any gratification he enjoys from it, but from the fear of the consequences attending his abdication; thus illustrating the celebrated saying of Solon, "that a tyranny is like a fair garden, pleasant to enter, but impossible to be left."

But all his good qualities are tarnished by his cruelty; which he appears to have exerted in many cases from a conviction of the necessity of exhibiting dreadful examples to others, but frequently it seems to have been the natural effect of his own disposition. Of his love of cruelty and his wish to be a complete master of the art of ingeniously tormenting, we have a well known proof in the story of Perillus, but some of his letters show still more curious indications of his skill in that diabolical science. The following may serve for specimens.

TO ALCIBIUS.

"Polyclitus the Messenian whom you accused of treason to your citizens, has restored me from a dangerous malady. I know that this will excite your lamentations and tears. For not even Esculapius the inventor of medicine, together with all the rest of the Gods can cure you. Art removes the weakness of the body, death alone is the physician of the soul. Wherefore for your many and great offences committed against me, not by constraint but inclination, you may depend on my administering this remedy."

TO EVENUS.

"I was at first inclined to kill your son, whom I had taken prisoner, on account of his treatment of the captains of my ships. I afterwards repented and spared his life; for I would rather torment you by permitting him to live, than him by putting him to death. Farewell."

TO HERODICUS.

"Some persons when injured, conceal their intention of vengeance, that they may fall upon the offenders unawares. I, on the contrary, esteem it dishonourable to attack an enemy when unprepared. Wherefore as I have been injured by you, I forewarn you to be upon your guard; I give you this notice, that previous to its infliction, the fear of punishment, and when it comes, the punishment itself may torture you."

These quotations are sufficient to show the character of the book. If it was written, as is hinted already, with the design of conveying a useful lesson, it answers this purpose completely. No declamation against tyranny could excite greater horror and disgust than the perusal of this volume. Considered in this view, it would be well worth recommending it to the perusal of young persons, at a time when tyranny is making such dreadful strides to universal dominion, and when the spirit of liberty, the only power capable of arresting its progress seems to be sedulously repressed and stifled, by those who affect to be its defenders. The language is pure; the stile exhibits to a great degree that pithy terseness which is the peculiar beauty of Attic composition.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Bard of Erin, and other Poems, mostly National. By James M'Henry. Smyth & Lyons, duodecimo, p.p. 80; price 3s. 4d.

THE Bard of Erin, and several other small Poems, by Mr. M'Henry, have recently been published in Belfast. To dwell with severity on productions, composed under disadvantages of a peculiar nature, as the Author states, and by a young man, would be an invidious task, and very distressing to the writer of this review. Yet however an allowable partiality to an Irishman's compositions may lead us to praise, truth and taste require also to condemn: and where faults are manifest it is necessary to point them out. The author who shows a good deal of poetic genius, may find benefit, the public something to guide, in a review of these poems. The Bard of Erin consisting of 154 lines, is not distinguished by much originality of thought, or strength of idea; the lines flow easily, but there are words in it, and expressions, not quite warranted by the usages of the English language, or at least they are inelegant.

"Rocks and Woods their glimmering shades *bestowed*,
overcome with care,
Oft Erin's genius feels thy influence *dear*,"

are expressions we do not read with pleasure. The passage however, beginning, "ye guardian spirits of my country say," is good and spirited; the term, *barbarity*, is nevertheless extremely obscure, as it is very doubtful, to know the period, or the manner of Ireland's becoming barbarous according to the author's description. The same remark applies to "hostile ignorance."

We have the lines further on;

"Nor feared in numbers all his soul to give,
Sure from his sacred function *then to live*.

This is not elevating the character of the bard; we would much rather have seen the second line run thus;

"And taught his country's acts in verse to live.

Taste hanging on the strings like dew on the plain, is not a happy image. (line 45)

The line

"Neglect, *which breaks your heart and mine*,"

is not poetical, and the whole part from line 20 to 50, though far from wanting merit, disappoints from an indefiniteness of term and meaning, and we can only gather, that Ireland was once covered with glory, and that barbarity and ignorance have injured her.

The poet then complains of the disadvantages of his situation, and informs us that love, and a wish for fame, first prompted his verse, and compares himself, we do not see with what justice, to Caithalore, an Irish Chieftain, who fell in battle.

The passage beginning at line 85, has some parts extremely good, and the sentiment and feeling displayed are highly deserving approbation.

"Howe'er I stand, my fortune's bolts severe,
Still my degraded country draws the tear:
How long Ierne's genius wilt thou mourn,
The wreaths of all thy ancient glories torn!

How long shall Poetry, celestial maid,
Tune thy pathetic harp in sorrow's shade!
How long the ardour of thy children lie,
Doom'd to the caves of cold obscurity;
Rouse, rouse, to all thy former self return,
Instruct thy sons with native warmth to burn;
Make in their breasts their father's virtues glow,
Their guardian Angels shall their aid bestow;
Light, life and glory spread their genial sky,
And prejudice the hallow'd region fly;"

After the song of the bard we are told, "the trees, the rocks, and mountain cliffs appeared to move." "The moon-light vale was overcast with mist." "A virgin harper," who proves to be the Genius of Ireland, is seen.

"With gold and purple were her temples crowned,
Beset with stars and flaming rubies round,
Of heavenly mould the harp on which she played,
In holy wreaths of shamrock green arrayed."

The genius of Erin is not much indebted to the Author for the dress he gives her, and the ornaments of her head are very little accordant with the wreaths, which deck the harp.

The genius informs the bard in a very flattering manner how he is to be rewarded.

"Long have I proudly marked the generous pain,
Which heaven approves, nor will approve in vain,
But round thy brows shall glory's palm entwine,
For ever due to patriot worth like thine,
For know, thy sweet enthusiastic lays,
Shall reap thy dearest meed, ETERNAL PRAISE."

This is certainly not undervaluing himself, and we think is rather hastily bestowing "glory's palm" on what is here called patriot worth.

A prophecy is then made,

"An age of joy to Erin will appear,
A glorious age, *and 'tis already near.*"

Here the genius forgets Erin a little to compliment Britannia, and tells the bards to pour their "noblest rage," on the occasion of her lending her succour to the former. A high and deserved compliment is paid to Belfast. The conclusion is extremely obscure, and we lament very much, that we are compelled to repeat this kind of remark, as the author's intentions appear good, and time, study, and the criticism of an enlightened friend, would have prevented our disagreeable task of reprehension. We observe the word *Liberty*, is not once mentioned in this poem, or indeed we believe in the whole book!

The recurrence to the ancient times of Ireland, brings a thousand heart rending recollections, and we think the Bard of Erin ought, if he spoke at all on the subject, to have spoken more boldly and explicitly. The want of true knowledge of the state of Ireland, of studying the disposition of it's inhabitants, and of conciliation in the treatment of them have caused this country much misery. The hand should not tremble in touching the strings of Erin's harp, and the Bard should remember in recording other times, that its tones are sometimes martial, as well as plaintive, or *pathetic*.

In the notes, Mr. Arthur O'Neil is described as the *only Harper in Ireland*. Patrick Quin, of Portadown, has perhaps superior merit to O'Neil. There is a harper in Drogheda. Another, a female in Dublin, and doubtless several in the South, and West. The author has been therefore rather hasty in pointing out Mr. O'Neil, as the sole performer on that charming and venerable instrument, the Irish harp. The poem of Caithalore, taken from Irish history, shews great ease in forming sonorous lines, and is very respectable on account of the source from whence it is taken.

In the 23rd. line, we presume its an error in the press, when we see

"Stout *were* his heart, that met thee on the field,"

The comparison,

"As sinners sink in heaven's avenging hour,"

is in itself puerile; applied to a tyrant, and warrior, it seems ludicrous.

The last lines of Caithalore's speech, with the exception of the word *bore*, have considerable merit.

"Death's direst form my bosom can defy,
And in the cause of virtue, pants to die.
My daughter, now from ruin, guilt, & thee,
By heaven's protecting arm, and mine set free,
Shall bless with tears, the death her father *bore*,
And Bards shall spread the fame of Caithalore."

The tale of Edward and Eliza shews great goodness of heart, tho' it has not much interest. It is liable to the faults we have adverted to as to language.

"I could not help *to love him dear*,"

is one instance among others. The whole resembles Goldsmith's Edwin and Angelina.

Corun and Lora, has some very pretty stanzas, and the story of it is similar to that of "*La folle par amour*" a beautiful little French dramatic piece. It is on that subject which is always affecting and melancholy; where the understanding is lost, from the effects of disappointed love, who can refuse sympathy, that has known what it is to feel? but if it is a young and beautiful girl, who is represented labouring under such insanity, what heart can avoid the throb of anguish at her situation; what eye can retain the tear of joy at her recovery?

The following lines we would wish to have been corrected before going to the press:

"When our souls to each other we swore,
Is a sovereign *remead* for the mind."

On the whole, tho' the Author has not, at the critical moment of restoration to understanding, in our opinion, made the passage as affecting as he might have done, yet his tale is pretty, and the selection of the subject shews sensibility, and discernment.

The elegy written on the Inver, near Larne Church-yard, is an imitation, and not a happy one, of Gray's unrivalled elegy.

The songs on the seasons, particularly Spring, are pleasing, and manifest observation of nature, the true volume for the poet's study. The song called the Exile's return is in some parts very poetical.

The use of the words *pathos* and *pathetic* thro' the poems is not agreeable at least to our ear, and we think *passion* or *plaintive* would have answered generally better. *Nationality* is a word also, which we object to as a vague term. We conclude this critique by assuring the author, that we sincerely wish for his welfare, & that we reckon on his future improvement. He has dared to meet the public eye: there was courage in the attempt. As an Irishman publishing in his own province, he deserves consideration for his youth and retired situation, and encouragement for the proofs of genius he has given. But it is due to our country and ourselves, to shew that we can praise without blindness, and discern faults, which might otherwise be supposed to receive general approbation or acquiescence. The true object for the poet or the critic, is to instruct, amuse or delight: utility is never to be lost sight of.

The improvement of the taste and mind is naturally advanced by good poetry; the former may be spoiled or blunted by the perusal of the inferior and vulgar kind, the latter receives no addition to its stores by it. Poetry is therefore a public property, which ought not to pass unobserved.

We rejoice to see the efforts of our country man; and we look to future similar attempts with pleasure.

Poetry exalts the mind, it carries it back to remote times, makes it disdain mercenary ideas, and leads to the expression of pure morality, and exalted and vigorous patriotism. We shall take our leave of our author by referring him to the beautiful part of the Eneid, where the poet sings to his harp the most sublime subjects. We recommend to him the example, and we trust he may merit and obtain similar applause.

.....Citharâ crinitus Iopas,
Personat auratâ, docuit quæ maximus Atlas.
Hic canit errantem Lunam, Solisque labores,
Unde hominum genus, et pecudes: unde imber, et ignes:
Arcturum, pluviasque Hyadas, geminosque Triones:
Quid tantum Oceano properant se tingere soles
Hyberni, vel quæ tardis mora noctibus obstet.
Ingeminant plausum Tyrii, Troësque sequuntur.

Le Comte de Corke Surnommé le Grand, ou Seduction sans Artifice; suivi de cinq Nouvelles. Par Madame de Genlis; 12mo. 2vols. p. p. 468. *Colburn, London,* 1808.

(Concluded from P. 59, No. VI.)

DURING his residence with Sr C. Manwood, Richard finds some opportunities of doing good offices to Lady Ranelagh and her friend; but

also discovers a rival in his employer, who in the full confidence of his own superiority, never suspected that his low-born secretary could have excited a flame in the heart to which he himself made pretensions. At this time the Earl of Essex having returned to Ireland, pays a visit to Sir Charles's villa, he recognizes Richard, and repeats those flattering expressions which had first roused his infant ambition, and which now tended to confirm the increasing partiality of his mistress. Several circumstances of a trivial nature, which more fully develope the contrary characters of the man of fortune and the child of fortune now occur, by means of which he rivets himself more firmly in the esteem of the man he admired, and the affections of the woman he loved. Essex retires, and is shortly after arrested by order of the queen. Sir Charles, whose eyes had been opened by Lady Ranelagh's rejection of his proposals, for nothing is more quick-sighted than jealousy, had already conceived a rooted hatred to Richard, in consequence of which this young man quitted his family, and retired again to his original obscure retreat. But he was not allowed long to remain here. His rival was too accomplished a courtier not to crush an enemy when in his power. The intimacy between Richard and the Earl of Essex wa now alledged as a crime against the former. In consequence an order arrived for his arrest. His destiny now seemed to be decided. He determines to surrender without even giving an intimation of his purpose to Lady Ranelagh; from an idea, that he will either suffer death or banishment among a number of others involved in the same accusation, equally obscure as himself, and thus spare his mistress, of whose affection he feels himself secure, the pain of hearing of his sufferings until they are terminated. But what can escape the penetrating eye of love? Lady Ranelagh hears of the circumstance, and being sensible that his misfortunes are caused by the persecution of Sir C. Manwood, which originated in her refusal of his addresses, she offers to unite her fortunes and interests with his. He still resists the temptation; the same principle still actuates him; he will merit before he accepts the prize, and goes to England, there to await the developement of his fate. Lady Ranelagh on hearing of his departure follows him to London, determined to make every sacrifice to a man who has proved himself so worthy of her esteem.

Shortly after his arrival he is brought before the Queen to be examined, and contrary to the expectation of his vindictive enemy is confronted with him. Here he enters into a detail of his conduct so clear and convincing that all opposition is silenced; he is not only acquitted but raised to a degree of favour, to which the highest flight of his ambitious fancy could scarcely have dared to aspire. To complete his felicity, he soon after received the hand of the woman, whose affections he had so nobly conquered.

Such is the outline of this interesting little tale; in which a few facts are so artfully wound up with a number of fictitious circumstances as to excite at times a momentary appearance of reality. We do not pretend to say that it is without its faults; among these the predominant are a tediousness in the conversations, a refinement of sentiment beyond nature and truth, and an attention to trivial circumstances. But on the grand points of morals and mental improvement which we think most necessary to be attended to in works of this nature, it is blameless. We cannot however conclude without some animadversion on the title, which seems to have been prefixed as a lure to purchasers, and savours too much of the style of those modern novels, as "the Natural Son," "Innocent Adultery," and others, whose very name excites an expectation in a certain class of readers that something is contained within suited to gratify the appetite of a fervent depraved imagination. Here is neither seduction nor artifice. The Earl of Corke is conscious he is beloved, and acts with open undisguised sincerity on that conviction. He uses no artifice, he employs no seduction: Lady Ranelagh is in love with his merits before she attaches herself to the man. It is a title, which, while it attracts the attention of those who would throw aside the volume, were they preinformed of its contents, excludes it from the view of those who could appreciate its worth, and profit by the maxims it contains.

The story, an outline of which we have now given, occupies but a part of the two volumes; the remainder is filled by five of what are here styled novels, but should be properly called moral tales. The first is the relation of a most singular penance inflicted by a husband on a wife guilty of infidelity. The idea is novel, and all the circumstances are singular and interesting. The second, styled the Lovers without Love, is of a very different cast from the rest; it contains more of modern French manners and intrigue. Indeed it scarcely deserves the name of moral tale, as the only deduction to be drawn from it is, that unhappiness is the consequence of marriages arising from love, while those who marry from what are generally called prudential motives, obtain that felicity which the other vainly flattered themselves with. Its name is also faulty: Lovers without Love is a contradiction in terms, unbecoming a writer of sense or taste. The third and fourth are fairy tales; the moral is good, but this manner of deducing a moral we have always thought exceptionable. The interference of supernatural beings serves only to bewilder the imagination; they have no prototype in nature; the mind, when interested, is raised into an ideal creation, whence it descends unwillingly into the common haunts of life; and the conclusions drawn from such agents are generally supposed to partake of the impossibility of the source from whence they spring.

But the disappointment accruing from the perusal of these is well repaid by the perusal of that which concludes the volume. It is a tale founded on nature, and calculated to excite the tenderest, finest feelings of the soul. It is the story of two sisters, twins, whom the impartial fondness of a mother has educated with such scrupulous impartiality that the similarity of features bestowed by nature, was rendered still more striking by a corresponding similarity of character impressed by habit. The little incidents tending to illustrate this coincidence of manners are introduced with great delicacy and judgment; they are the production of a person who has felt and studiously discriminated the various distinguishing shades of the female character, in its highest state of purity and refinement. The sisters are described as living with that union of sentiment which is so seldom to be found, even between those whom mutual choice has bound in the most solemn tie of mutual affection; they are but one soul inhabiting two bodies, until the arrival of a stranger, who loves one of them, and is equally loved in return, dissipates the pleasing illusion, and for a time dissolves an union formed by nature, and encreasing with encreasing years. The termination is melancholy; yet even such a catastrophe is the parent of a pleasure peculiar in its nature. The moral arising from it is forcible and impressive. Q.

Woman: or Ida of Athens, by Miss Owenson, 4 vols. 12mo. p. p. 979. Longman Hurst and Rees, London, 1809.

SIMONIDES (to a learned lady we may talk of learned men) Simonides (yet it may be necessary for the information of some of our readers who have not dived as deep in classic lore as the writer of the pages now before us, to acquaint them that he was a poet, who has written some verses on the characters of women, more celebrated for wit than politeness) Simonides, who, though a Grecian, does not express that enthusiastic admiration of those animated models of the fairest of God's works, that seems to have taken possession of Miss Owenson's imagination, divides the female species into nine classes, attributing to each a character derived from some animal whose qualities were blended in it when moulded by the Gods. Some, says he, were formed from the cat, some from the monkey, some from the mare, some from the ass, and a few from the Bee. We have during the perusal of the work now before us, amused ourselves with guessing to what description of clean or unclean beasts, he would have referred the class of novel-writers, had such a race of non-descript animals existed in his days. He would not improbably have said that their souls were formed from that of the spider, incessantly spinning an endless worthless

web from its own body, for the sole purpose of catching flies to feed on. For of all the creatures that ever nature gave birth to, a novel writer, employing the talents and industry and ingenuity bestowed on it for some good purpose, in the cause of indolence and idleness and vicious indulgence, is the most disgusting. The philosopher may pause for a moment to inspect the fabrick, may view with melancholy admiration the ill-employed labour with which it draws its long winded thread, the perverted ingenuity with which it winds its intricate meanders to catch the unwary victims of its arts, the resolution and perseverance with which, when its first labours are lost or rendered useless it recommences its toils; but immediately on turning from it, treads the reptile under foot as a nuisance to society; and the web which it has formed, after remaining a short time through indolence in the walks and haunts of man, is swept away, and consigned to the oblivion whence it should never have been extricated.

To this class must be referred every work of imagination whose main object is not instruction. Like poetry it admits of no medium; it must be either good or bad: and if the former does not predominate, if a clear plain useful moral does not shew itself throughout the volume, not elicited by an exertion of the mind, but presenting itself spontaneously to the understanding we should not hesitate for a moment in forming our decision. It matters not what may be its other merits: The interest of narrative, the charm of style and composition diminish rather than encrease its claims to our approbation; the beauties and external accomplishments of a female who has once lost that which gave them their true charm, become the most dangerous instruments of seduction.

It is with unfeigned regret that we are compelled to refer the work before us to this class. If we sympathize with the feelings of our countrymen, who raise the character of their native soil in the literary world, if we feel a glow of honest pride at the praises they receive, and say within ourselves "I too am an Irishman:" what must be our emotions, when justice not only forbids us to praise, but calls upon us to censure and condemn. Our attachment to our country and our respect to the female sex, combine in making our decision more forcible and determined. We cannot approve of what reflects no credit on the former, and when a woman appears before the public, it should be from a strong sense of public duty: her intention should be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated.

From the name bestowed upon this Novel, Miss Owenson appears to have intended her heroine as a model for her sex's imitation. The observations about to be made will shew the model to be faulty and dangerous. She seems also to have recurred to a method resorted to by the apostles of the new philosophy, of making works of fancy a vehicle for their peculiar opinions. They did it for the purpose of disseminating their principles more widely. Had they been confined to treatises written for the purpose, they would have been little read, and therefore little harm could accrue from them. But being thus intruded on the public in an unsuspected manner and in places where there was little opportunity of controverting them, and falling into the hands of a class of readers accustomed to take opinions on trust, they stole upon the mind and were rooted there before their dangerous tendency was suspected. We are far from attributing any such intention to the author of the present work. But a writer should be very cautious of publishing without the most mature and deliberate investigation, new or peculiar opinions on these great points of morality, on which the welfare of society depends.

With respect to the narrative, or what in poetry is called the fable, there are two commonplace modes of arrangement, two beaten paths in which the great tribe of novel-mongers who find it more congenial to their talents to imitate than invent, trudge along this flowery path to fame. In the one, the heroine, for the principal character of a novel now-a-days must be a female, is gradually raised from obscurity by an unexpected train of

circumstances, to fortune and rank. In the other, a well known character sinks gradually from wealth to poverty, and the reader's interest is excited by her struggles to rise, or her fortitude in bearing up against its evils. Miss Owenson has chosen the last. It is with no small degree of surprise that we find her condescending to follow when she had given proofs of invention and originality in a former work.

A Grecian Merchant, who had realized a fortune at the price of his health and peace of mind in England, returned to his native country and settled at Athens, in which city his brother, one of the antient nobility of Attica, resided. The daughter of this brother is the heroine of the tale. From her uncle she received the rudiments of an education which in our author's opinion was to render her superior to the rest of her sex. The system chosen by her, borders very closely on that so ably depicted in the "Modern Philosophers;" all was left to nature; energies do every thing. "Every Jill," says the old proverb, "must have her Jack." A heroine is nothing without a sympathizing hero. Such a one is introduced in the character of a young slave of the Disdar Aga (we like these high-sounding names, particularly where they tinkle like Greek) vulgarly called the Turkish Military Governor of the city. He introduces himself like his renowned progenitors in Romance by killing a huge wolf, shooting at a mark, and relieving the distressed. After the first interview, which is decisive of the future destinies of the two principal characters, we see no more of him until Ida again appears in public, where he attends her disguised like an Armenian, but in attempting to rescue an injured Greek from the fury of a party of Janissaries, discovers himself, is seized and carried prisoner before the Aga. Ida throws herself before the judge's feet and pleads for the victim. Her arguments, when addressed to a Turk who despised the Greeks and hated their religion, are somewhat singular; and must have been powerfully aided by the *lightning of the eye, the panting bosom, the clustering tresses, the soul-beaming expression, the white and rounded arms of Ida.*

"No," says she, "he shall not, must not die,—die! Gracious God! for what? for defending the rights of nature, *of freedom*, of humanity; it was a Greek, a poor compatriot, he saved! it was age and feebleness he succoured, *it was bigotry he struck at! it was tyranny he opposed.* He now appears before you, not to receive death, but to demand retribution. He stands before you *the representative of his injured country*, violated in her dearest principles, denied her dearest rights —*oppressed, debased, and wounded, &c.*"

Yet it had its effects. Osmyn is liberated on condition of quitting the country, but remains in secret at the house of Ida's uncle. Here their mutual intimacy increased. Each is deeply enamoured of the other, not only without discovering their mutual sentiments, but even without knowing their own. At length however an opportunity occurs, too tempting to both author and actors, to escape. Osmyn breaks the ice. His style of making love is equally sublime with that of his Mistress's pleadings.

"If we might speculate on heavenly joys we should attribute to them an influence such as these awaken—heavens! what a language to a soul that feels! what words, what tongue, what looks can give the heart's emotion utterance—Lady! you saved my life—Oh! more—you gave me new existence; and yet—even now—in moments such as these—so near you too—so unobserved—I dare not—must not—cannot speak my feelings!"

Ida answers very reasonably, "*and wherefore need you?*" a reply which in our opinion was sufficient to bring down Eschylus himself from his Iambics.

Osmyn however has a rival. The Aga, Turk as he is, falls in love with Ida; she visits his daughter Jumeli in the citadel; Osmyn is jealous; this, together with a thunder storm, gives rise to another love scene. Osmyn increases in *pathos* In his first attempt he lost his speech; he is now about to lose his life, but is raised again to existence by the voice of Ida.

The Aga, on his part suspects the intimacy, and persuades her father, who is represented as a weak, turbulent, discontented, factious citizen, proud of his birth and fortune, a character by

no means ill designed or badly drawn, to recall her from her uncle's: she returns, and shortly after her uncle's death is announced by Osmyn. This is the only time he appears in her father's presence, who cannot brook the idea of his daughter's union with a slave. However some love-letters pass between them, in which Ida, like a dutiful daughter, refuses to have a private interview with Osmyn. At length however he touches the string to which her soul vibrates. He had been engaged in a conspiracy to throw off the Turkish yoke: he declares that he will relinquish the cause unless he be inspired by her approbation. Ida was a patriot: what she refused to love, she grants to her country. They meet at midnight, are surprised by her father and the Aga: the former secures his daughter, but the other is put to flight by Osmyn, who thus escapes.

A scene of a different nature now presents itself. Osmyn, who, though he knew that the desire of seeing her country liberated from the yoke of the infidels was the favourite wish of Ida, and that to make himself worthy of her was the principal idea that occupied his soul, yet, by a strange perversity of thought very unbecoming a hero, and inconsistent with the character which he is intended to support, neglects the friends with whom he had associated for this purpose, and employs the time that should have been spent in forwarding their preparations, in the boyish pleasure of dangling after Ida. At one time we hear of him loitering under the walls of the Acropolis (*vulgo*, the Citadel) at another piping under Ida's chamber or gaping up at her window. In short in reading this tale we may lay it down as a general rule very necessary to explain certain obscure passages and confused incidents, that, like a pair of magpies, whenever we meet with one of these lovers, the other is not far off.

However when Osmyn has lost his mistress he thinks of his friends, and after making use of a pitiful falshood to excuse his negligence, they proceed to business. A debate follows, in the conduct of which we would have advised Miss O. to have studied "Venice preserved," where she would have met with a history of a conspiracy painted in true colours. The Turkish Aga discovers their place of meeting, a guard of Janizaries is sent to seize them, a battle ensues, in which numbers and discipline prevail over patriotism; the Athenians are routed, slaughtered, and their leader taken prisoner.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

BRITISH Politics have usually been divided into FOREIGN and DOMESTIC, but, with the exception of a few ports in the south of Spain, the continent of Europe appears to be almost, if not altogether closed against these countries, and never, perhaps since their first discovery by the Tyrians, have the British Isles been so confined in their intercourse with the world. From the Dardanelles, where Mr. Adair remains on board his frigate, waiting probably for a new revolution in Constantinople, the last having happened under the influence of the French; from the Dardanelles to the Baltic, where Admiral Keates is stated to be most unfortunately frozen up, near the coast of Zealand, with one ship of the line and from 16 to 20 English vessels, there does not appear, in this extent of coast, any safe or free footing for Englishmen, but on the rock of Gibraltar.

In *Sweden* the late events leave little hope that the reception of British vessels, in her ports, can much longer be tolerated. It is rumoured, indeed, that discontents have been manifested not only among the Swedish Nobility but through all ranks of people in that country, nor is it surprizing, that the honest, plain, and sensible Swede should be puzzled to find out any possible reason, except the *personal* one of £100,000 per month, subsidy from Britain, which can operate for a continuance of a war with the united powers of France and Russia, a war totally without public

end or advantage, and which has already occasioned a dismemberment of the kingdom. No doubt the general discontent is instigated in some degree, both by the French and the Russian parties, and it is not the first example of the present times where the follies and errors of the sovereign have been suffered to proceed to such a length, as to afford a plausible ground for the interference of Bonaparte, and an accommodation in consequence to the new organization of Europe.

From *Portugal*, the exclusion of the British, if it has not actually taken place, appears inevitable. The British troops have been withdrawn from Elvas, and the other frontier towns; the fortresses of St. Julien, and Belesme, dismantled; Oporto occupied by the French shortly after the engagement at Corunna, and Lisbon itself has been left like Madrid, to the defence of the inhabitants, and to the virtue of patriotic proclamations. It is at best but a sort of fungous patriotism, which such publications are calculated to excite among an inert, and illiterate people; and the truth is, that, throughout the whole peninsula, including Spain with Portugal, the inhabitants have been so long kept, by the voluntary neglect of government, in a state of moral and intellectual debasement, that when the hour arrives which calls for the best energies of human nature, it becomes easier to summon up the ghosts of the dead, than a spirit in the living.

Bonaparte, it is said, is about to make a new line of demarcation in the peninsula, or rather to revive the old one first adopted by Charlemagne, in which Portugal is to be reunited to Spain, and Lisbon that grand Port, lying so favourably to the western ocean, will probably become the great naval emporium. The Ebro to be made the eastern boundary of the kingdom, and Biscay, Navarre, Arragon, and Catalonia are to be added to France. Thus the passes of the mountains will remain in the possession of the French, and the figure of speech which Louis the XIV. made use of to Philip of Anjou, when he placed him on the throne of Spain, will be realized; "Henceforth there are to be *no* Pyrenees." The Pyrenees seem to have operated as a sort of natural bar to the improvement of Spain, by cutting it off from the rest of Europe, and on their *political* removal, the Spaniards will probably rise to a higher European value, and a more just estimation, by a readier communication with the nations on the continent. The Merino sheep have hitherto enjoyed more of the notice of government in this part of the world, than the melioration of society, and Spain furnishes one of many examples to prove that the vices and virtues of a people are almost always the effect of a bad or a good legislation; producing either that vilification which gradually beggars the national character, or that self-valuation, which makes a people respected by their Government. Man in the full and quiet possession of all his rights, never fails to pay a just attention to the performance of his duties. How many experiments to improve the breed of inferior animals! how few to educate men to the high destination of which they are capable!

Of the state of *Spain*, since the evacuation of Corunna, it is not easy to speak with certainty. We have been the victims of misinformation, and if the Juntas have done their utmost to keep their own country in the dark, it cannot be expected that the real situation, either of military, or political affairs, will be known in Great Britain. In the centre of Spain, it is said, that the van of the Duke of Infantado's army consisting of 12,000 men, is dispersed or destroyed, that he himself, denominated in the French Bulletins, *a man of straw*, had retired to Albaciti; that Reding's army in Catalonia has experienced nearly the same fate, and that there is now scarcely any body of Spanish troops collected in any part of the South, and South eastern parts of the peninsula. It is indeed inconceivable that any effectual resistance can be made against the French armies by the natives of Spain in the open field; a resistance at all times extremely problematical, but now wholly impracticable, and it is extremely probable that the supreme Junta, has by this time, intimated to

the British Cabinet, the necessity of succumbing to the French usurpation. Joseph has made his triumphal entry into Madrid, and received the homage of all the constituted authorities. The expedition to Cadiz, under General Sherbrooke, will throw light upon our future connexion with the Spanish nation, and will decide whether they are in future to profess themselves the friends, or to be classed among the enemies of Britain. The convoy which consisted of forty vessels, had been dispersed, but has since proceeded from Cork, with 24 transports, to the place of their destination. The Spaniards according to the last accounts, were busy in strengthening the fortifications of Cadiz, but if it be an object of the British expedition to take the French fleet from our allies, to whose faith and honour it was submitted; this will, it is to be feared, be a source of serious dissension, fatal to the treaty so lately ratified; and the attack of Cadiz by the British may have consequences similar to those which resulted from the affair at Copenhagen. On the 28th ult. no English troops had arrived, nor was it known that the Spanish Government *would admit* an English garrison into the fortress of Cadiz. The arrival in London, of that most experienced diplomatic character, Don Pedro Cevallos, may prevent any misunderstanding arising between the Junta and the British Cabinet, but it may be perhaps improper to place implicit confidence in the communications of this pendulating politician, as evidence of the unanimous resolution of the people of Spain. There has been much of mutual dupery in the whole business, and if the Spanish nation be true to itself, it will wish no longer to be made a pretext for the introduction or continuance of civil war in their country, with all its calamitous consequences. On much the same principle that Dumourier was distrusted, Don Pedro Cevallos ought not to pass the antichamber, much less partake in the confidence of the Cabinet. It now appears certain that there always has been a powerful party in Spain, attached to the interests of France, and that this party has its share even in the military councils of the Junta.

General Liniers has raised the standard of independence in *South America*, and declared his intentions to shake off the dominion of Spain. He maintains his power over the whole viceroyalty, with the exception of the district of Monte Video, which has proclaimed Ferdinand VII. and established a Junta for the management of their affairs. Liniers is suspected of partiality to the French, and a civil war will probably be soon kindled in these colonies.

The treaty with the Junta of Seville is said to be ratified, exchanged, and ready to be laid on the table of the two houses of Parliament. We are to be allowed to assist in the garrisons of Cadiz, Carthagena, Cueta, and Minorca, during the war.

An immediate attack is projected by Murat, against the Island of *Sicily*, the result of which, in its present state, must be contemplated with serious apprehension.

In the island of *Jamaica*, a difference between the executive and legislative authorities, disturbs the tranquillity of the island, and hitherto there is no prospect of conciliation. The house of assembly vindicates its right, as grand inquest of the island, to investigate the circumstances of a mutiny which happened at Fort Augusta, and of compelling the commander in chief, to give evidence before them, as to the facts of that mutiny. The inhabitants of the island join with the assembly, and the Governor takes part with the Commander in chief.

In *America*, the President, Mr. Maddison, and Vice President, Mr. Clinton, have been elected by the peaceable expression of the public will, and whatever agitation this election may have occasioned among the people, individually, it has never had the smallest effect upon their political union. The embargo (first passed 22d. December 1807) is still in force, and enacts that all persons infringing the act, are to be held guilty of a high misdemeanour, and to forfeit treble the value of the merchandize connected with the offence. The inform-

er to have half the value on conviction. The Non intercourse bill (2d. January 1809) prohibits all ships entering the harbours of the United States, belonging either to Great Britain or France, and imposes fine and imprisonment upon persons assisting in such purposes, the vessels and cargoes to be seized and condemned. The eleventh section empowers the President to abrogate this act so far as relates to Great Britain or France, should the Orders in Council of the one, or Decrees of Berlin of the other, be rescinded. It is said that the law for enforcing the Embargo is to be repealed, when the non-intercourse act becomes operative, but the dates of *its* commencement are still uncertain, and it is highly probable it will not commence till June next, in which interval the British Government may take advantage of the eleventh section.

In a debate in the House of Lords, in which Lord Grenville moved an address to his majesty to rescind the Orders in Council, the question against the motion was carried by a division of 115 against 70, a very formidable minority, and whose union, and exertions may yet be successful. It was stated in the debate, that from the operation of these Orders in Council, the diminution of our commerce has become of alarming magnitude amounting in one year ending 20th October, 1808, to a diminution of £6,200,000 in the exports, and of £5,200,000, in the imports, in which statement neither Ireland nor Scotland, a great part of whose trade was with America, is included; and giving to them a proportional share, the diminution of commerce may be fairly estimated at £14,000,000. In the article of wool, the staple commodity, and in many other articles, an alarming diminution has taken place, and also in the importation of raw materials essential to our manufactures, a number of cotton mills have been stopped, and the workmen thrown out of employ; £14,000 has been subscribed at Manchester for the relief of manufacturers out of employment. In Lancashire there were 30,000 weavers subsisting on charity. The great importance of the linen manufacture of Ireland is well known, and the difficulty of procuring flax-seed is at present a serious evil; of 45,000 hogsheads required for sowing, 35,000 must be procured from America. The price of flax-seed has risen from 2 to £3 a quarter, to from 22 to 24*l*. It is now February, and if the necessary quantity of flax-seed be not procured before May, the consequenses will indeed be serious. The prospect at present was that in the course of next summer half a million would be thrown out of employment in the North of Ireland. The Orders in Council, unjust in their principle, are now proved to be most injurious in their effects to the interests of this country, whilst the pretence on which they were founded is now completely taken away, it being proved to a demonstration that America does not acquiesce in the infringement of her neutral rights, by the decrees of France. The result of this debate in the House of Lords, still leads us to a more confident expectation, that the wise system of self-defensive neutrality, adopted by the American States, and their consistency and determination in maintaining it, will operate most powerfully in procuring peace to the world.

The War indeed *goes on*, without having any very evident end to be attained, but continues as it were by *habit*; so many classes of the community are interested in its continuance; the military organization of the country is so completed (the effective army amounting to 210,614, of which there are 27,376 Cavalry, and the effective militia of the three kingdoms amounting to 81,377 rank and file, while the navy consists of 150,000 seamen, including 31,000 marines) the facility of supporting so great an establishment being reduced at length to such a *system*, and the ways and means, at all times, so cheerfully and readily supplyed, in short, the resources of the country have been converted by the financiering abilities of Mr. Pitt, into an instrument so readily attained, and so easily disposable, that even the most moderate ministry find themselves irresistibly tempted to follow up the war, without well knowing where it is about to lead them,

rather than risque the disorganization of the military system, and the partial injury resulting from peace to several classes of the community. One great source of national calamity in the indefinite prolongation of the war, has we think arisen from the domestic coalition first strongly connected by Pitt, we mean the mutual understanding, and strict junction of the ministry in power, with the commercial interest, by which every scheme of ambition has been facilitated to the one, and war itself has been turned into a sort of speculation to reward the other. It is from this intimate alliance and collusion of the ministerial and monied interests, that a fatal fallacy has been propagated with success, through every rank in society, viz. that the preservation of our rights and privileges, the salvation of the constitution, even the very existence of the nation are indissolubly and necessarily implicated with a *certain* extension of commerce, and a *certain* degree of maritime ascendancy. Thus, the union of two party interests, with respect to the Empire, have gained such influence over private opinion, as, in its consequences, to compromise the public safety, and induce a belief that the prolongation of the war is altogether necessary and unavoidable. Do your best to secure to us the monopoly of the world, and we will go every length to secure to you, the ways and means for carrying on the war. Such is the compact, and even when cut off from the continent, the colonies of South America glitter in speculation. Thus the respective parties transfuse their actuating principles into each other; the principle of the mercantile system, rejected by true philosophy, is still cherished as a ruling maxim of state; and the commercial interest becomes actuated and infected with the ambition of the Cabinet, and the spirit of adventure; and hence must result not an open, enlarged, and generous policy, but a sort of politico-commercial, Carthaginian policy, which injures, and degrades the British character in the estimation of foreign nations. It is only by a revival of the true British policy, equally wise and magnanimous, which seats itself on the square and sound-set basis of the rights of Man (and we scorn the man, who would vilify the sacred worth of the expression) extending these blessings to all with whom it wishes alliance or connexion; it is only by such generous policy, that Britain can *overreach* Bonaparte, and by making this policy the practical guide of her foreign relations, she may yet be able to redeem the world.

With respect to the DOMESTIC branch of British politics, the public attention has been wholly absorbed in the examination carried on in the House of Commons; a parliamentary inquiry altogether unexpected, either by Ministry or Opposition. Our opinion of its importance is such, that we believe it may lead to all the beneficial effects of a revolution, without any of its horrors. Not only the mere subject before the House, but the House itself, in the words of Mr. Wilberforce, is put *on trial* before the scrutinizing tribunal of public opinion; and we think the nation highly indebted to Mr. Perceval and the other ministers, in bringing the matter before *the whole house*, whatever might be their feelings, and their fears of giving personal offence, by this display of public duty. They perhaps had little foresight of all the consequences of this procedure; but the subject is now elevated, by *their* means, upon a stage so high as to attract the attention of Europe; and the House of Commons is now called on to vindicate in the sight of mankind the virtue of the British constitution, which protects the lowest, and will not be contaminated by the corruption of the highest order, with impunity. Never will there occur a more grand opportunity of accomplishing such a reformation in the manners and morals of a country, as may help to avert the judgments of Heaven, and if Britain be destined to sink in the present contest, to call forth the sympathy of the present, and future ages in her fall.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

DISTILLATION FROM GRAIN.

On Thursday the 9th instant, a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of Belfast was held in the Exchange-rooms, pursuant to public notice; for the purpose of taking into consideration the intended Bill for permitting distillation from grain in Ireland.

Edward May, Esq. Sovereign, being called to the chair, opened the business of the Meeting by stating, that when the legislature adopted the measure of prohibiting distillation from grain, they were induced thereto principally with a view to afford relief to the West India proprietors, who for want of a market for the productions of these islands, had been reduced almost to a state of ruin. The Government therefore adopted that measure, in order that the distillation from sugar in place of grain, might, by the consumption of that article, afford them the relief which justice and necessity required. Owing to an error which had occurred in the bill, the distillation from sugar had not taken place in this country. In England, Government had found the measure very effectual, and therefore it was to be continued there; but in Ireland, it was found that the moment the regular distilleries were stopped, the private distilleries commenced, and the supply of whiskey, and the consequent consumption of grain was as great as ever, whilst at the same time the revenue was deprived of the very great sums of money which the licensed distillers used to pay. But another consideration ought also to be attended to, and that was the regard that is due to the agricultural interests of the country, for it must be admitted, that the moment you stop distillation from grain, that moment you lay a check upon the enterprize of the farmer, and the improvements of agriculture.—In this view of the case it may be questioned, how far it would be proper for this meeting to take upon themselves to decide upon the utility or inutility of the measure, and whether it would not be better to delay farther procedures until a meeting of the county should be called, for undoubtedly the territorial, the landed interest is as deeply involved in the result as the mercantile. It might, perhaps, be represented, that the resolutions which this meeting may come to, were dictated by interested motives, or why give such encouragement to the West India produce, and neglect the farming interest at home. As to the price of grain advancing in consequence of the proposed measure, he did not believe it would occasion much rise in the markets, for it was well known that there was an abundance of grain at this moment in the country. The hag-yards were never more plentifully stored than at present. An argument had sometimes been used, that distillation from grain ought not to be permitted on account of this country being deprived of all supply by importation from abroad; but it deserved attention, that by the ablest calculators in England it had been stated as a fact, that the greatest quantity of grain imported in any one year was not equal to the consumption of these countries for one week, nay, even for one day. The measures which Government had adopted to prevent private distillation, had hitherto proved ineffectual. At first it was thought that laying a fine of 50*l.* upon the townland for every illegal still found in it, would check it, but it had not done so. He believed, however, it was in agitation to increase that to 500*l.* He again stated his opinion that it would be better to delay adopting any measure at present, and as three gentlemen had been sent from a meeting in Dublin to London, we ought to wait until we learn the result of their procedure. He further stated that he considered it to be his duty thus candidly and fairly to state his opinion upon the subject, and he assured the meeting that in doing so, he was not influenced by any party motives, he had no reason to be attached to the ministry in this measure, and God knows he was as little attached to the opposition. What he aimed at was to chuse that which should appear most for the interest of the country.

Mr. Getty, Mr. R. Davis, Mr. W. Tennent, and several other respectable inhabitants severally delivered their opinions in favour of an application to Government against the distillation from grain.—On this occasion, it was stated, that though the Legislature, when they resolved upon prohibiting distillation from grain, had in view, to afford relief to the West India Merchants, as stated by Mr. May, they had also another more important object in view, which had great weight in deciding the question at the time the Bill was passed, and that was to prevent the rise in the price of grain, being aware that

no supplies would be obtained from abroad, owing to the state of Europe. That at this present moment it became a question of the very first importance to consider, what influence the proposed measure of permitting distillation from grain would have upon the markets. The very rumour of it had already advanced the price fully 20 per cent. and it was a fact, that at present the prices were considerably higher than they were at the time when Government found it necessary to stop distillation; and higher than they were at the time of the year 1800, when in was deemed expedient by Government, to resort to the payment of high bounties, and in fact, to all the means in their power, for bringing from America, and other places, every species of grain that could afford relief in the scarcity which prevailed. It ought to be taken into consideration, that very great numbers of mechanics and different descriptions of working people, were at this time without employment. That there was great reason to apprehend that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been misinformed with regard to the quantity of grain consumed by the private distillers, for there were no authentic documents of ascertaining it, but at any rate it could not possibly be nearly equal to what was consumed by the licensed distillers. That in fact the question would assume this shape, whether the price of grain was just now as high as it ought to be, or whether it should be higher; for that must follow as a necessary consequence if distillation was to be permitted. The former, at the present moment, certainly had ample remuneration for his labour, and were the prices to be advanced, the poor would be reduced to great misery.

With regard to private distillation, it was certainly necessary that some more effectual measures ought to be taken to suppress it, for it was a well known fact, that at Magilligan Point a public market was held on Wednesday and Saturday in every week, for the purchase of grain and the sale of whiskey, and this was also well known to a number of official people.

The present could certainly never be considered a question of party, for all parties must look upon it as connected with the first interests of the country. The stoppage of the distilleries had already produced one beneficial effect, by preventing the lower ranks from indulging in the drinking of whiskey, so prejudicial to their morals, and making them resort to the use of beer, so beneficial to their health.—I cannot, said one gentleman, declare, as several others have done, that I am wholly disinterested in the result of this measure, as I am certainly connected with the West India trade; yet I trust, that any interest I have in this respect, shall never make me swerve from what is right, in a matter so essential to the good of the country; and I hope that this question shall never be placed in that point of view, but that we shall calmly deliberate, and respectfully and temperately submit our opinion to the Legislature, with what information we can afford them, and after having done so, leave it with them to decide. As to waiting the result of the measures which the gentlemen who have gone from Dublin may pursue, it does not appear to be necessary, for undoubtedly there are many gentlemen here as capable of judging of the measure as those in any other part of the kingdom, the capital not excepted.

The Meeting then resolved unanimously that a petition should be presented to the Imperial Parliament, praying that the prohibition of the distillation from grain may be continued in Ireland.

The following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare the Petition, which is to be submitted to another General Meeting, to be held on Saturday at one o'clock, viz.—The Sovereign, Robert Getty, Esq. William Tennent, Esq. Robert Davis, Esq. Jos. Stevenson, Esq.

On Saturday a meeting was held in the Exchange Rooms, to receive the Report of the Committee. Edward May, Esq. Sovereign, having taken the chair, read the petition, which was unanimously approved of, and on the motion of Mr. Getty, it was resolved that the Sovereign should transmit the same to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that it might be laid before Parliament without delay.

Mr. May, jun. then rose and said, he was sorry to observe, that in the discussion of this subject at the last meeting, it seemed to be taken for granted, that the only object in view was to keep down the prices of grain, and to preserve that article of necessity for the supply of the poor. He, for one, entertained a very different opinion, and he would candidly declare it. He considered it to be a measure suggested by those who were interested in the sale of West India produce, rum and sugar.—He was strengthened in this opinion by what he had learned since he came into the room, that besides the petition which was about to be sent from this meeting, another was to be sent from the West India merchants. In that point of view it appeared to be a question not so much involving the interest of the poor, as the in-

terest of the rich. To what else could he attribute the precipitancy with which this measure had been gone into? Not a moment had been allowed to investigate facts, or inquire into the state of the hag-yards in the country. It had been stated that the crop of last year was deficient, but he certainly did not think so. Potatoes never were in greater abundance, and oats were also plentiful. He would not say it was a superabundant crop, but he would maintain it was a good crop. If the sole object in the contemplation of gentlemen was to provide for the necessities of the poor, why was it that they had overlooked that consideration upon a former occasion. This remark he would apply to some observations which he had formerly heard, that a number of artizans and labourers were without employment, owing to the scarcity of timber, flax, and other articles, usually imported from abroad. If regard to the interests of the poor was the sole object now in view, why was their interest so much neglected, why was no meeting called, when the Orders in Council were issued, to petition against them as tending to throw the working classes idle? Had he the smallest apprehension that the proposed measure would tend to distress the poor, he would be the last man to countenance it, but as he had no such apprehension he would therefore support it.

Mr. Davis stated, that in order to prove to the satisfaction of the meeting, what was the state of the grain in this country and what ideas were entertained by merchants of the probable rise of markets, he could inform them that he knew a respectable gentleman in the county of Tyrone, who dealt in grain, and such was his opinion of the probable rise of markets, that he had, previous to hearing any thing of the proposed measure by Parliament, gone towards the south of Ireland, in order to lay out every shilling he could spare, in the purchase of grain, for the consumption of the north, under the conviction that prices would rise.

Mr. Getty stated, that there could be no doubt of grain being higher in price now, than it was at the same period last year: and he knew for certain, that in Belfast market, potatoes had that very day been sold at 3*s*. 6*d*. per cwt.

Mr. Greenlaw said, he was very much surprised at the observations which had been made by Mr. May, that the present measure was not dictated by the necessities of the poor, but entirely from a regard to the interest of the rich. If Mr. May would chuse to have a demonstration of the fact, let him immediately divide the house, and then he would be able to determine whether it was West India merchants alone that would vote for the measure. He could assure him, that he had a very extensive correspondence in various parts of the country, from all of which, his information led him to believe, that the last crop was generally defective. In the spring it was injured by the wet. In the summer months the appearance was more flattering; but in the harvest the wet again destroyed our hopes, and it was well known, that wheat in particular, was a very short crop. Potatoes were better in point of quantity, but were very bad in quality. Mr. May had stated that the hag-yards in the country were full; in many places they appeared to be so, but let him go and examine, and he will find they are principally filled with straw. He regretted much that any gentleman should argue as Mr. May appeared to do, from his regard to and connexion with the landed interest. He would do well to consider the situation in which this country stood at the present moment, precluded from all intercourse with America and the Baltic; nay the ports of the whole world shut against us. Whatever grain remains in Ireland should be husbanded by government. It might come to be the only resource the country could look to, for even a scanty subsistence. We could not ensure the ensuing harvest being a good one, but dreadful would be the consequences if it should fail. The consumption of grain by private distilleries was shameful; it was a reproach to the country, that a parcel of smugglers were able to defeat the the object and the laws of the Imperial Parliament.

The Sovereign observed, that the other day when this subject was under discussion, he then took the liberty of stating his opinion very fully. He was still of the same opinion, that the measure which the Legislature had in view was best for the country. He did not believe that the prices in the markets could be greatly influenced by it; but even though they should be in some degree affected, and though the poor should experience a temporary inconvenience, it was certainly as fair that the farmer should at times partake of the advantages of an incidental rise in the markets as any other description of men. The best writers upon political economy were of opinion, that all interference upon subjects of this nature, were prejudicial and hazardous. He could not refer to higher authority than that of Dr. Adam Smith, an authority to which all of us must bow, and that able writer pointed out in the most satisfactory manner, that it was better to leave such subjects to their own tendency, as they would find their

own level. The right of petition ought always to be used with caution, and he recommended that to their consideration upon the present subject.

Dr. Forsythe said, that whatever idea some people might entertain respecting the interest which West India merchants had in question, surely no such idea could attach to him, and he declared it to be his candid opinion, that if the distilleries were permitted to work, the consequences would be very injurious to the country. He was fully convinced that the effect would be a material rise in the markets, which certainly were sufficiently high already. It undoubtedly was a very hazardous experiment under the present circumstances of Europe, which preclude us from all hope of relief if the ensuing harvest should fail. It had been stated that the laws were evaded, the object of Government defeated and the revenue defrauded. But why should this be? Why did not Magistrates do their duty? If Magistrates neglect the duty they owed to the public, why not change them; and if the revenue officers were not sufficiently vigilant, why were not others put in their places? Even if the laws were found defective, why not make new laws. All these measures he was of opinion ought to be tried by Government, rather than resort to what is now proposed, which might ultimately prove extremely hazardous to the most important interests of the country.

Some other Gentlemen said a few words, after which it was moved, that the thanks of the meeting be returned to the Sovereign for his readiness in calling this meeting, and for his conduct in the Chair. This passed unanimously.

The Sovereign said, he was extremely obliged by this mark of their approbation. They had heard him state that he did not approve of the object which they had in view, but though that was his own opinion he certainly felt it his duty to yield, when he found the general sentiment and the majority of the meeting so decidedly against him.

ANTRIM...*Married*...Mr. J. Brangers, of Antrim, to Miss Mary Ramage, of Ballymony. Mr. John Bankhead, to Miss Lurting, of N. Limavaddy. Mr. Austen M'Connell, to Miss Armstrong. Mr. John Gibby, of Belfast, to Miss Dunlop, of Carrickfergus. Mr. Robt. Wason to Miss Eliza Gillespie, both of the Falls. Mr. John Lytle to Mrs. Sloan, both of Portglenone. Mr. J. Millar, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Jane Beggs, of Doneymoy. In the island of Rathlin, a few days ago, Capt. Alexander Wier, to Miss M. Black, both of said island. On this happy occasion, every soul in the Isle was assembled at the ceremony, and afterwards partook heartily of the accustomed beverage.

Died....At Larne, Mr. George Lenn. At Randalstown, Miss Martha Adams. In Belfast, Mr. Robt. Gibon. Miss Patton, daughter of the late Rev. Isaac Patton, pastor of the Seceding Congregation at Lyle, near Templepatrick. Mrs. Pirry, of High-street, Belfast. In Ann-street, Belfast, Mrs. Millar. At Grace-Hill, Mr. Samuel M'Mullen. In Belfast, aged 15, Mr. James Ross. Mr. Edward Hogg, one of the people called Quakers, aged 83.

ARMAGH....*Married*....Edward Mockler, esq. to Miss Elizabeth Bolton. Mr. C. Lutton, of Moira, to Miss Eleanor Carlton. Mr. Thomas Emerson, of Lurgan, to Miss Ann Halliday, of Stoney Hill. Mr. F. Bennet, to Mis Catharine M'Kee, both of the vicinity of Armagh.

Died...Mrs. Mary M'Kinstry, widow of the late John M'Kinstry, esq. Mrs. Perry, relict of the late George Perry, of Perrymount, esq. At the village of Four-mile-burn, parish of Donegore, about which she resided since a child, Nancy Alexander, alias Allen, aged 112 years. This old woman reaped for 63 successive years of her life, in the boon of a respectable farmer in the neighbourhood (that of Mr. John Ferguson and his successor, the late Mr. Thomas Ferguson.) It is a singular circumstance, that notwithstanding her great age, she enjoyed the use of all her faculties, till her last moments, and of all her senses except that of sight, which had been gradually decaying for some years past. She was never known to have a head-ache.

DOWN...*Married*...Mr. J. Taylor, of Grayabbey, to Miss Jane M'Clure of Gransway. Mr. S. Wallace of Booten, to Miss Porter, of Ballyrussel. Wm. Burke, esq. of Ballydugan, to Miss Blake. Mr. John Savage of Banbridge, to Miss Mary Anne Trumbull, of Dublin.

Died, Mrs. M'Caubrey, of Comberbridge, near Ballynahinch. At Ballywalter, Mr. John Napier. At an advanced age, Mr. John O'Neill, of Banvale, county Down. He was lineally descended from the ancient Kings of Ulster. In the early part of life, he spent several years on the Continent, and on his return to his native country, devoted his attention to agriculture and the linen trade; he possessed a well cultured understanding, and was distinguished by a remarkable dignity, blended with the most amiable courtesy of manners; through life, his conduct was guided by the principles of integrity and honour, and had conciliated universal esteem and respect. By his death, the poor have lost a father, and all connections an invaluable friend.

BRITISH.

DIED on the 11th instant, at Greenbank, near Liverpool, William Rathbone, in the 51st year of his age. As a merchant of considerable eminence, he possessed the strictest integrity and most delicate honour, and in the midst of a very extended business, he, by a judicious economy of time, gave much attention to literary pursuits, and stored his capacious mind with much valuable knowledge. At the same time he *did* not neglect the duties of a man and a patriot; but soaring above the narrow views of selfish interests, exerted himself by his advice, and the exercise of his extensive abilities, to promote the welfare of his country, his neighbours and his friends. He proved, by his example, the possibility of blending in a happy medium, in one character, the merchant, the man of refined knowledge, and the true philanthropist. His was not that cold selfishness which wraps the mind in an entire attention to private emolument, and produces indifference to the concerns of others.

He had a warm heart, joined with a correct judgment, and a well disciplined mind; indeed it was the great business of his life to form a just estimate of things, giving to each its due place, and to preserve the equilibrium of a well poised mind. Such was his delicacy that he often found it a difficult task to determine on the line proper to pursue, and was not easily satisfied with himself: but having once decided, he followed his matured conclusions with undeviating firmness.

In private life, he was possessed of most amiable manners; sincere, affectionate, and ardent in his friendships, his friends will long have to deplore the loss of the faithful monitor, and the instructive, cordially attached companion and correspondent. He was a man of domestic habits, and was happy in the endearments of a most amiable family; being a most tender and affectionate husband, and a truly good father; he bore a lingering illness with the utmost composure and resignation, and looked forward undismayed to the termination of his prospects in this life with steady confidence in the mercy and goodness of God.

In the whole tenor of his life, he has left an example worthy of imitation, and affords a strong inducement to follow the same paths, that in our lives we may be as truly useful, and in our deaths as much supported by peace and hope.

When in great bodily pain, but consoled by the affectionate attentions of his family, he would often say, "mine is not all suffering."

Such characters reconcile us to human nature, and show to what a height of virtue man may attain, by correcting his passions and cherishing the finer feelings and sensibilities of his nature.

As a proof of the warmth of his philanthropy and the ardour of his mind, a circumstance may be mentioned, which, as connected with this country, may hence receive a local interest, and also furnish a distinguishing trait in his general character.

During his last illness, and in a state of great bodily weakness, on hearing an account of the hardships likely to await this country from the want of flaxseed, he became so interested on the subject, that nothing but extreme weakness prevented his immediately writing a number of letters on the business, to move to a consideration of the impending danger. Thus his active mind was influenced by a wish to be useful, notwithstanding the failure of his bodily powers; and his ruling passion to do good, "was strong even in death."

He interested himself much in the civil and religious state of Ireland, and was a warm friend to her best interests.

His religion was of that practical kind, which consists in doing good, and his conduct was a beautiful exemplification of the maxim of the moralist, that "no life can be acceptable to God, which is not useful to man."

The following stanza from Beattie's Minstrel, being the advice for his conduct through life, given to Edwin by his father, is known to have been much his favourite, and was fully illustrated by his own example:

"And from the prayer of want, and plaint of woe,
Oh! never, never turn away thine ear,
Forlorn in this bleak wilderness below,
Ah! what were man, should Heaven refuse to hear!
To others do (the law is not severe)
What to thyself thou wishest to be done,
Forgive thy foes, and love thy parents dear,
And friends, and native land; nor those alone;
All human weal and wo learn thou to make thine own."

In a future number we hope to be able to give a more detailed account of the life of this excellent man.

The following remarkable circumstance may be depended on as a fact. A poor Irishwoman, who resided in Shoe-lane, London, was brought to bed on Friday se'nnight, and on the same evening dreamt that she should die on the Monday night following. This portentous dream was little attended to by her husband or her neighbours; but on Monday, during the hurricane, the husband thought he heard the roof of the house giving way, and mentioned his fears to his wife. She, however, was unable to help herself, and dreadful to relate, the roof shortly afterwards falling in, buried in the ruins the unfortunate woman and her child! The husband with the utmost difficulty preserved his life, and though buried in the rubbish, miraculously extricated himself from his perilous situation.

Norwich...On the night of the 17th ult. a lamb the property of Mr. J. Reynolds, of Beeston, St. Andrew, was completely buried under the snow, and was not seen again till the 12th instant (an interval of 26 days) when it was alive and well!

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th of January, to the 20th of February, 1809.

The weather having for some weeks past been extremely wet and stormy, has greatly retarded the progress of the plough, and will probably occasion a press of business to the farmer, in getting the land prepared for the spring crops.

The early sown wheat continues to look well, and the later crops begin to put on a more favourable appearance.

The prices of grain continue to advance, oats in particular has experienced a very great rise, and oat-meal is proportionably high. This extraordinary rise appears to be occasioned by a general apprehension of the effects likely to result from the liberty proposed to be granted to the public stills, and not from any conviction of a scarcity of grain: last year's crop although not as productive as might be expected from its appearance, yet will fall very little if any thing short of the average of the last five years, and the general representation of the potatoe crops being favourable, encourages a hope that provisions will not advance to that enormous price, which the present alarm seems to have suggested.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It may be proper to notice, as a subject closely connected with the Commercial interests of this country, the proposition made in the Imperial Parliament to permit the distillation from grain in Ireland, and to lay an additional duty on the importation of spirits from this country into Great Britain. In a former Commercial Report, this subject was noticed as connected with the proceedings in the last session of parliament, and a remark made that the business was taken up, rather as a question at issue between the landholders and the West Indian merchants, without reference to the most material point, whether in the state of seclusion in which the empire stands with regard to America and the North of Europe, grain will not be wanted in the shape of food. Every reason which applied in the course of last summer is equally cogent now, when the price of oats, the second article of prime necessity in Ireland, is at present so very high, and if the distillation be permitted to go on, is likely greatly to increase. But taxes are wanted, the revenue is found to be deficient, and the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is only solicitous to procure money for his friends to carry on the war-system. The inhabitants of Belfast have had two meetings on the subject, and have petitioned parliament against the measure of distillation. A full account of the meeting, as extracted from the Belfast news papers is given at page 149, to which we refer, and crave the attention of our readers. It affords satisfaction to see some revival of public spirit in the town of Belfast, and much credit is due to some of the speakers on the occasion.

It is sincerely wished, that the opposition to the measure may be successful, though there is little room to expect that the good of the people will weigh against the expected increase to the revenue. Private advantage generally outweighs the public good, and some are inclined to wish that the merchants of Belfast had kept above all suspicion of sinister views, by acting with public spirit in petitioning against the Orders in Council, which principally caused the alarms of scarcity, and seem likely to deprive the inhabitants of Ireland of the usual

supply of flaxseed, as well as against a business, in which the interests of the West Indian merchants were peculiarly concerned.

The principal land-holders in the town and vicinity of Portadown, have likewise addressed the Representatives of the Co. of Armagh, in strong terms against taking off the restrictions on the distilleries; and the inhabitants of Newry and Banbridge have also petitioned parliament against the measure.

Dr. A. Fothergill in illustrating the influence of light on the human body, shows, that the tax on windows is injurious to the health of the poorer classes. Here we have one instance of the hurtful effects of taxation operating on health. We have many instances of taxes operating unfavourably on morals. Great facilities are given to license public houses so as to increase the revenue. While wars are continued, they must be supported by heavy taxation; and taxes are unfavourable in more instances than the two enumerated here, to health and morals. Thus by the blunders of statesmen we are deprived of the blessings we might enjoy. To increase the revenue, grain is wasted in distillation, and by a wrong policy we are cut off from the supplies of flaxseed and timber. High prices of the necessaries of life, and a want of their usual employment appear to await the poorer classes of our population, at no great distance of time.

Much distress must necessarily result to the different classes of workmen employed in the several branches of building, from the present exorbitant prices of timber; and this state of things, and the prospect of the want of employment in the linen trade, cause the high prices of provisions to be more severely felt. The supplies of timber which have hitherto arrived from Canada have been totally inadequate to make up the deficiency of the usual supply from Norway, and the ports of the Baltic. If the present system of commercial warfare be persisted in, it may be prudent to look out for other resources, and it is said that the coast of Labradore affords an ample supply, if a colony were settled there to cut it.

The question of having any thing approaching to an adequate supply of flaxseed for next spring's sowing is already decided in the negative by all reflecting people. In the mean time it is said that in Connaught the stock of flax and yarn is extremely small. Much distress is there felt and more anticipated. The unhappy emigrants driven from the county of Armagh some years ago, by religious bigotry, had contributed greatly to extend the linen trade in that province. These, with others, may probably experience a second time, the evils arising out of a state of war, whose destructive energies are now so fatally directed against commerce.

Notice has been given in both Houses of Parliament of motions relative to the Orders in Council, and these when they come on will be likely to produce some interesting information on the subject of the embargo. There is reason to hope that notwithstanding the attempts made to stop the language of complaint and just remonstrance reaching the legislature, the grievance of the want of flaxseed will be fairly and unequivocably stated in the course of these debates. The Earl of Moira has already noticed, in the house of Lords, the dangers to which this country is exposed from this cause, almost in the very words of the statement which was furnished to him and other Members of both Houses. America has yet left an open for accommodation in her embargo and non-intercourse acts, if wise counsels are suffered to prevail on this side. These countries might then be relieved from many hardships, though no room is left for hope of any accommodation in time for flaxseed to arrive for this year's sowing.

The Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer has after a long silence returned an answer to the address sent to him from the majority of the meeting at Armagh, in which he endeavours to console the people for the present want of flax-seed by the hope, that hereafter Ireland may be independent of other countries for this article, by raising a sufficient quantity at home for future supply. *A slender consolation for the present!* His answer is calculated to remove from a view of the present to a remote future, and though abounding in attempts to excite delusive hopes, it gives no satisfactory or reasonable expectation of flax-seed being procured to supply our present wants. This measure would only have been accomplished by changing the ministerial system towards America. This letter shows, in a strong point of view, the inefficacy of the plan adopted. If a direct address to the proper organs of the constitution had failed to produce any effect, there would at least have remained the consolation, that the Linendrapers of the north of Ireland had *done their duty* by making a *public* remonstrance.

In our present prospects as to flaxseed, hemp seems to offer some relief, as a

strong linen can be manufactured from it; consequently the culture of that article for the ensuing year becomes a subject of the highest importance, if by any means it can be temporarily substituted for our linen-manufacture, and thus, or by an increase of calicoes made especially, so as to furnish another substitute for linen, our weavers can have employment continued to them. Last year the Linen-board made some exertions to promote the growth of hemp, and published a pamphlet on the subject, with extracts from some of the agricultural surveys in England; but they were too late and the ground was pre-occupied by other crops. At page 108 will be found a further account of this subject. We hope if the linen board design to give any encouragement this year, in this business, they will do it speedily. Last year, they took up the subject of sowing hemp with the view only to procure a substitute for the defect of a foreign supply of that article. This year a more extensive scheme should be adopted to encourage the sowing of it on a large scale, that it may be substituted in the place of flax in the linen manufacture. One strong fact presents itself, that in Suffolk a good stout linen is manufactured from it: and this knowledge may be very important in the present crisis, when we are deprived of flax-seed.

At the late linen market in Dublin, many of the coarser linens were prevented from being got up to the market in time, from the floods delaying the finishing of them at the greens. Those which did arrive sold readily and at high prices. The sale of fine linens was dull. Few of those bought on speculation, some months ago, are yet sold. The prices of brown linens fell a little in our markets, but the coarser kinds have again risen to nearly the former very high prices, and may be expected to rise still higher.

Exchange on bills on London, in Belfast, for guineas, has been from 5 to 4½ per cent, and discount on bank notes at 3 to 2 per cent, during this month. The Exchange in Dublin on London, for bank notes, has rated from 7¼ to 6¾ per cent.

Since the foregoing Report was written, the account of the debate in the House of Lords, on the Orders in Council on the 17th Instant has been received; Lord Grenville, in the course of his speech, pointed out the impolicy of quarrelling with America, and defended the government of that country against the charge of partiality towards France. The nature of this Report precludes from entering further into this debate than to notice it so far as it relates to flax-seed; though if the plan of our present arrangement permitted, some pages of this Magazine might be usefully taken up with the report of his able speech, as it might tend to remove many hurtful prejudices which appear to be cherished against that country, with which it is certainly our truest policy to keep on good terms.

On the subject of flax-seed he remarked...."The great importance of the linen manufacture of Ireland is well known, and the difficulty in procuring flax-seed is at present a serious evil;—of forty-five thousand hogsheads required for sowing, thirty-five thousand must be procured from America. In consequence of the interruption of the trade with America the price of flax-seed which was from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per quarter, has risen to from 22 to 24*l.* per quarter. *It is now February, and if the necessary quantity of flax-seed is not procured before May, the consequences will indeed be serious, and the northern district of Ireland, once the most populous, industrious and prosperous, may be reduced to a state of unexampled distress.*"

Earl Bathurst in his reply, is stated to have spoken as follows:...."He could assure his Noble Friend, that in as far as Ireland was likely to be affected, Government had long ago turned its attention to them. The high price of flax-seed was found, on inquiry, to arise, in a great degree, from monopoly, and for the purpose of disappointing the speculations of interested individuals, they had applied what, in such cases, was found to be the most effectual remedy, by encouraging competition. They had ordered purchases to be made in different parts of the Continent; and *though he could not at present say what quantity had been bought up*, he had no doubt that supplies to a considerable extent would soon arrive. And an order had also been sent out to Lower Canada, though from the freezing of the river St. Lawrence, the cargoes were not likely to arrive till the month of May or June. He took this opportunity of correcting a very erroneous notion which some persons entertained, that the soil of Ireland was not properly calculated for raising flax-seed, and he was happy to state that large tracts of ground in that country were now preparing for this species of cultivation, and that there was every prospect of a sufficient quantity of flax-seed being soon grown in that country, not only for its own supply, but also for the supply of Great Britain; so that, though the inconvenience might be felt for a time, it was very far from being one which, as his Noble Friend had stated, was likely to be a *growing* evil."

The motion to address the king to renew the intercourse with the United States of America, was negatived, though a larger minority than usual supported the address. But here, as in other assemblies, reason and sound policy were forced to yield to numbers.

In our next Report it is intended to give a similar account of the debate on the same subject, expected to come on in the House of Commons. But before the subject is dismissed for the present, it may be permitted to remark that a supply of flax-seed, if such *does exist at present* in that country, cannot be expected to arrive from Canada before June, as the breaking up of the ice in the river St. Lawrence is not likely to allow vessels to sail long before the beginning of May. Unluckily it is too late to sow in June, and much injury may be done if by holding out such fallacious expectations, the grounds are kept uncropped till that time. As to the question of raising flax-seed in Ireland, even if the plan is practicable, it can afford no relief for the present year, for owing to the wetness of last summer *very little* was then saved; and the flax-crops, in many instances, were injured by the unsuccessful attempt to save the seed. It is hoped, however, the practice may succeed generally in other years; but in the mean time, the alarming consideration forces itself on observation, that in the course of this year a very considerable diminution, if not an almost total cessation of our staple manufacture must take place. At the present season there is not a *monopoly* of flax-seed, for that article is not in these countries, nor is there a reasonable expectation of more than one third of a necessary supply coming in. Let not the people be deceived by vain hopes, nor delay purchasing what they can procure timely. In cases of distress it is best to see the worst of our situation, and meet the difficulty with prudent precaution and foresight.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from January 20, till February 20

Barometer.....highest	30	40	Thermometer.....highest	47	0
lowest	28	30	lowest	34	30
mean	29	10	mean	40	10

Synochus,	1	Of a mixed nature between typhus and inflammatory fever.
Typhus,	8	Common contagious fever.
Erysipelas,	2	Rose.
Opthalmia	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Abortus,	1	Abortion.
Colica Spasmodica,	1	Cholic.
Phthysis Pulmonalis,	1	Consumption.
Asthma,	3	Asthma.
Dyspepsia,	4	Indigestion.
Asthenia,	3	Nervous Debility.
Catarrhus,	3	Common cold.
Hysteria,	1	Hysterics.
Dysenteria,	1	Flux.
Arthrodynia,	2	Chronic rheumatism.
Scrophula,	3	Evil.
Herpes,	1	Ringworm, or tetter.
Epilepsia Cerebralis,	1	Convulsions or falling sickness.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*,	7	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	20	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.

Contagious Fever, that terrible scourge both to poverty and wealth, has increased rapidly since our last, and is advancing with gigantic strides, as may be seen by inspecting the annexed report, whilst small-pox, scarlet fever and measles, have nearly disappeared. The spreading of the disease, although always attended with great misery and distress, particularly among the poor, is not so much to be dreaded as a peculiarly bad character or type which it has assumed, and which can only be prevented from making many the victims of its destructive agency, in this large and thickly inhabited town, by a speedy removal to an hospital, or by a separation of the sick from the healthy, and by a steady perseverance in ventilation and cleanliness. *Ablutions*, with cold water and vinegar, have been, in many instances, attended with the most marked good effects in the Reporter's practice, where the temperature of the body was encreased to 100 degrees of Fahrenheit, or upwards; but

he believes the *cold affusion*, which proves so powerful an engine in the hands of Dr. Currie and others in breaking catenated febrile action by its shock, has not got as fair a trial as it deserves. The cutaneous disease (*goose-skin*) mentioned in our last, has almost entirely disappeared, by the use of local applications of a stimulating nature. This Report shall terminate with an extract from the last number of the London Medical Review, which cannot but be gratifying to such of your readers as are engaged in the practice of operative surgery, by affording them a reasonable hope of success, in attempts to save the lives of their fellow-creatures, by the performance of operations of so formidable a nature, as to be seldom attempted till the present day, even by most bold and daring practitioners.

"The operation for carotid aneurism, performed by Mr. Astley Cooper in Guy's Hospital, in June last, has been attended, we are happy to say, with perfect success. It is highly valuable, inasmuch as it is hitherto the only case by which, as far as we know, the credit and character of the operation are supported; we mean its character in a medical sense. The practicability of the safe application and removal of the ligature was put beyond doubt, by the event of his first operation for the disease, two years ago. Humphries, the subject of the former, resides in Labour-in-vain court, Old Fish-street. He is perfectly well, and has returned to his employ, which is that of a porter. The facial and temporal arteries of the corresponding side have no susceptible pulsation. On the opposite side, the temporal artery is larger than usual. The tumour has totally disappeared. His intellect is perfect—his nervous system unaffected: and the very severe pain which he endured upon the same side of the head, previous to the operation, he has never experienced since. A hoarseness, which he had prior to the operation, continues, though it is not now so much as it has been.

The subject of an operation (performed about the same time by the same gentleman) for *inguinal aneurism*, has likewise perfectly recovered; he walks with considerable ease, with the aid of a stick, and has accomplished a walk of three quarters of a mile at one time. He makes no complaint of coldness in the limb. The event of this case is the more gratifying, as the man did not see Mr. Cooper until the tumour, which was very large, was actually livid, and the operation could not have been postponed without considerable risque. In proof of this, we may add, that on the sixth day following, the sac burst and discharged its contents.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From January 20, to February 20.

Fair rising from her icy couch,
Wan herald of the floral year,
The snow-drop marks the spring's approach,
Ere the first primrose groups appear,
Or peers the arum through its spotted veil,
Or violets scent the cold capricious gale.

After a winter marked by unusual severity, the appearance of the spring conveys more than ordinary pleasure, all nature seems to rejoice, and the benign influence of the vivifying sun produces a degree of excitement, which makes the fountains of life flow with rapid currents. The merry birds delight the ear, and the sight is continually gratified in beholding the swelling buds, and expanding flowers.

On the 26th, the Wood lark and the Wren again resumed their song, joined by the Common Bunting (Emberiza Miliaria.)

29, The Robin (Motacilla Rubecola) and Hedge Sparrow (M. Modularis) singing, and on the 4th of February, the Common Thrush (Turdus musicus) on the 12th the Chaffinch (Fringilla Cœlebs) and on the 14th the Lark (Alauda Arvensis) united in the concert.

On the 1st of February, the Redwings (Turdus Iliacus) which had disappeared at the first commencement of the severe weather, began to re-appear.

Geese become noisy, a sign they will soon begin to prepare their nests.

January 29, Catkins on the Filberts, shedding their farina, and the fertile flowers showing their tufts of crimson styles.

February 10, Snow-drops (Galanthus Nivalis) and Winter Aconite, or Christmas Rose (Helleborus Niger) flowering.

16, Single Blue Hepatica (Anemone Hepatica) and Flesh coloured Spring flowering heath (Erica saxatilis, Sal.) flowering.

18, Double Red Hepatica, flowering, and several flowers blown on the common Whin, or Furze (Ulex Europœus).

This day sowed Charlton Hotspur Peas—In the introduction to the Naturalist's Report, we endeavoured to point out the advantages likely to arise from a gardiner's Journal of this kind, and we again request an attention to this subject.

20, Single Red Hepatica, and two leaved Squill (Scilla bifolia) flowering.

Last year the Chaffinch sung first, on the 8th of February, and the Hedge Sparrow on the 13th; but the Hepatica was not in flower, until the 27th.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From January 20, to February 20.

A more severe winter than the one which we have now experienced is not often felt in Ireland, tremendous gales of wind, with either deluges of rain or deep snows, have given a character to this winter particularly striking.

The wreaths of snow which were formed on the night of the 5th of January on the roads, had still a portion remaining on the 15th of the present month.

January 21, 22, ... Pleasant clear days.
23, ... Same, but towards evening, some snow falling.
24, ... Small hail, or snow falling.
25, ... About six inches of snow fell during the night, commenced thawing during the day.
26, ... Thaw with misty rain.
27, 28, ... Fine dry days.
29, 30, ... Heavy rain.
31, ... Fine day, rain at night.
February 1st, ... Showery morning, fine day.
2, ... Showery.
3, ... Very wet day.
4, ... Brilliant morning, showery evening.
5, 6, ... Showery.
7, ... Dark, dry day.
8, ... Cold windy day with snow showers.
9, ... Thaw with rain.
10, ... Dark dry day.
11, ... Wet.
12, ... Fine morning, wet stormy night.
13, ... Showery.
14, ... Pleasant bright day.
15, ... Heavy showers.
16, ... Windy night, fair day, but wet in the evening.
17, ... Cool dry day.
18, ... Stormy night and day with showers.
19, ... Wet morning, then fine day.
20, ... Windy showery day.

The Barometer during the present period was once so low as 28°, 4′ and only three times at 30 it may be said to have been almost stationary at 29.

The Thermometer although the common station was about the freezing point, has had a considerable variation; on the morning of the 22d of January, it was 25, on the 23d, it was 24, and on the 18th of February it was as high as 51, a very remarkable degree of heat for the season.

The wind has been Northerly 8 times; Easterly 4; Westerly 1; Southerly 16; of the intermediate points, the S. W. was by far the most prevalent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR MARCH, 1809.

On the first, the Moon passes our meridian at 12 o'Clock, being under the middle of the Lion; the first being above her to the west, and the second above her to the east of the meridian, but at a much greater distance. At this time Mars and the first of the Virgin are in the south-east; and soon after her rising, two planets in the west, the Moon in the east, and Orion near the meridian form a very magnificent scene. At 9 o'clock she is 47° 49′ from the second of Taurus.

Fifth, she rises at 57 min. past 10, under the first of the Virgin, and Mars,

having passed the planet in the morning; and on this day she passes the ecliptic, going from the southern to the northern side, but without producing an eclipse. During the night, the first of the Virgin, Mars, the Moon, followed by the two first of the Balance, and the two first of the Scorpion, will present to the traveller a pleasing scene.

Tenth, She rises at half past 3 in the morning, and is soon followed by the small stars in the head of the Archer; she sets about half past 11.

Fifteenth, she rises at 56 min. past 5 in the morning, and sets at 56 min. past 5 in the evening, and of course we cannot see her this day.

Twentieth, she rises about 7 o'clock, morning, and sets 13 min. past 11 evening. She is seen under the Pleiades, and nearly in a line with these stars and Menkar, but much nearer to them than to him. Venus and the first three stars of the Ram, are now at a considerable distance from her. At 9 she is 58° 2′ from the second of the Twins.

Twenty-fifth, she rises at 54 min. past 11, passes the meridian at 35 min. past 7, and sets the next morning at 40 min. past 2. At the time of her culmination, we may see above her the first two stars of the Twins, and below her the first two of the Little Dog, being almost in a right line with the second of the Twins, and the first of the Little Dog. The western hemisphere has now a very splendid appearance; the line from the Moon to Venus, pointing out objects which must now be familiar from former observations: while under this line, Orion and Sirius render the region to the south and south-west conspicuous. At nine she is 35° 6′ from the first of the Lion.

Thirtieth, she rises 3 min. past 6, and passes the meridian at 46 min. past 11, P.M. having above her to the east, the seventh, and to the west, the second of the Virgin, being two of the five stars in the triangle. The whole of the Lion is now to the west of the meridian, the second being considerably above her: under her are the stars in the Crow; and the first of the Virgin and Mars, the first two stars of the Balance, and Saturn just risen with the second of the Scorpion, adorn the line from her to the point south-east by east. At 9 she is 32° 26′ from the first of the Lion. She sets the next morning at half past five.

Mercury, is at his inferior conjunction on the 5th, and of course, so near the Sun during the early part of the month, that he will be invisible. The Moon passes him on the night of the 14th.

Venus, is an Evening star, being at her greatest elongation on the 13th, her motion is direct through about 30°. On the 12th she is in a line between the first of the Ram, and the first of the Whale, but much nearer the former star than the latter. The Moon passes her on the 20th.

Mars rises on the first a little before ten at night, and on the 25th, at three quarters past seven; of course, this month is favourable for observations on him. The Moon passes him on the 5th.

Jupiter is in conjunction with the sun on the 22d, and of course will be an evening Star near the horizon during the early part of the month. The Moon passes him on the 16th.

Saturn is on the meridian at 43 min. past 5, in the morning of the first, and at 13 min. past 4 in the morning of the 26th. The groupe formed by this planet and Antares, and the second with the smaller stars of the Scorpion will form a pleasing object during the whole month. The Moon passes him on the 7th.

Herschell has a small retrograde motion during this month of about 50′ almost in the line between the first of the Balance, and the eleventh of the Virgin; being at first about 2½° from the former star. The Moon passes him on the 6th, being very near him.

Jupiter being very near the Sun the greatest part of this month, the Eclipses of his satellites will not be visible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SIMPLEX, and S. E. are received. We have had for some time a paper signed RUSTICUS, lying by us; as we do not think it suitable to the plan of the Magazine to admit papers of this description, yet are extremely unwilling to withhold from the public any comments upon its merits, we shall either leave it for return to the writer to dispose of it as he pleases, or if he wishes will transmit it to either of the newspapers, which we conceive to be the proper vehicle for such animadversions.